ひきだしにテラリウム
TERRARIUM IN DRAWER
れ井諒子
イースト・プレス
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9784781609485
1920979007604
ISBN978-4-7816-0948-5
C0979 ¥760E
イースト・プレス
定価（本体760円＋税）

TERRARIUM
IN DRAWER

BY
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TRANSLATED
BY HQX

ひきだしにテラリウム 九井諒子 イースト・プレス

ひきだしにテラリウム

九井諒子

イースト・プレス

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TERRARIUM IN DRAWER

It was a love that could never be from the beginning...
He's far too good-looking for someone like me...
Him and I were like heaven and mud...
No wonder,
My love was unrequited...
I'm such an idiot I let myself get carried away just because he was a little nice to me
Misunderstandings

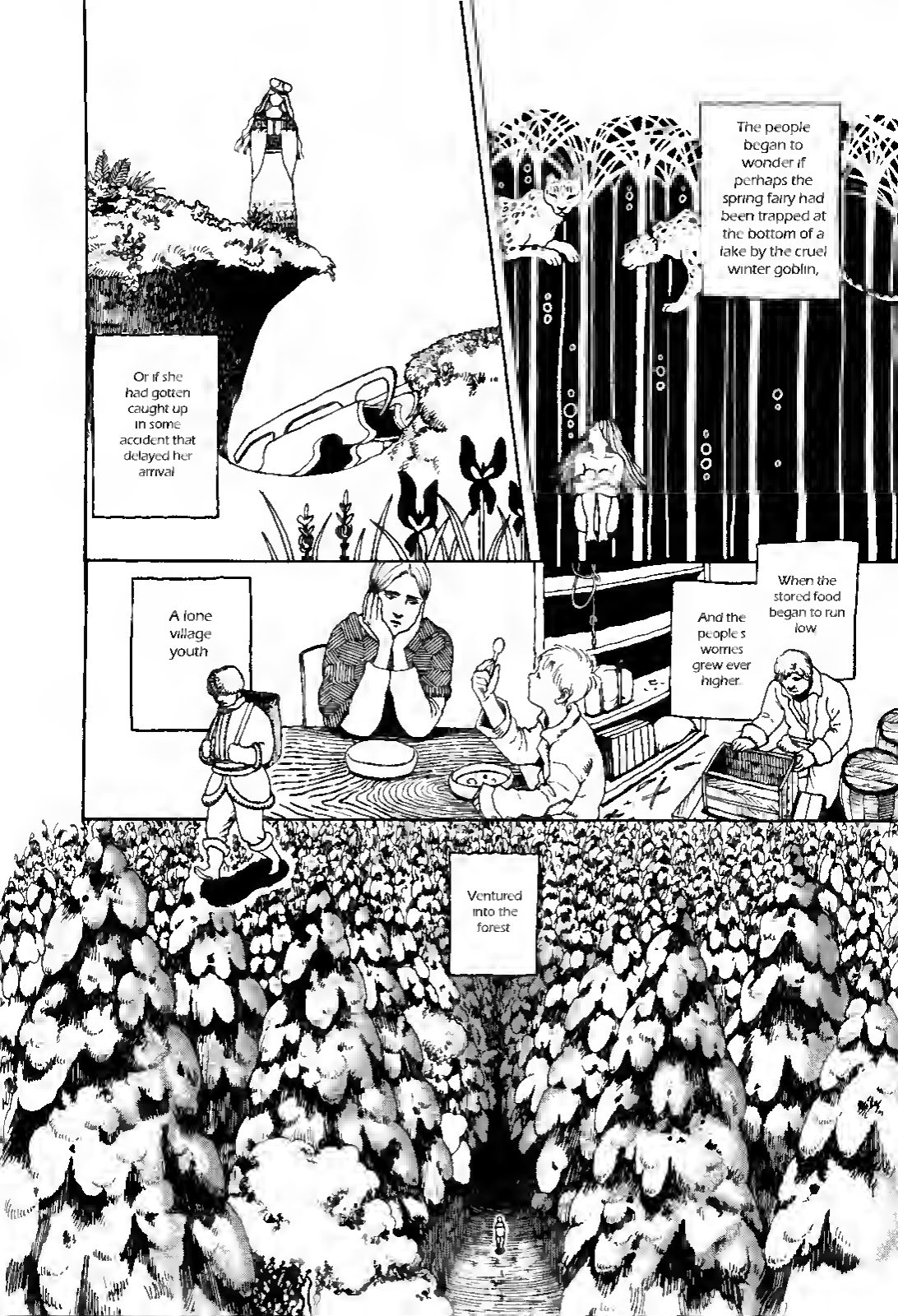
Takeshita-kun!
DIIING!
フッ
フ"ス
Why are you here...
IT'S ALL A MISUNDER-STANDING!
Takeshita-kun!
Let's get married!
がっし

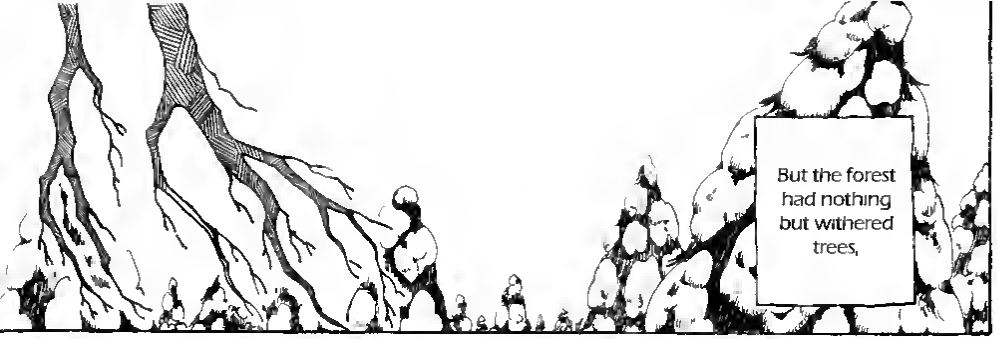
From the moment I met you,
I knew I loved you.
カリカリ
Working hard as usual I see.
Is the manuscript coming along well?
It'll be done in just a bit
Hello. Sensei!
I'm Yamada from XXX Publishing.
DING DONG!
I know that everyone's laughing at me.
Because I resorted to using an invention that wasn't around at that time...
For your first attempt at a historical manga, your attention to the setting is impeccable really!
Oh, your readers love it!
Liar.
...So how's the general response to my new work?

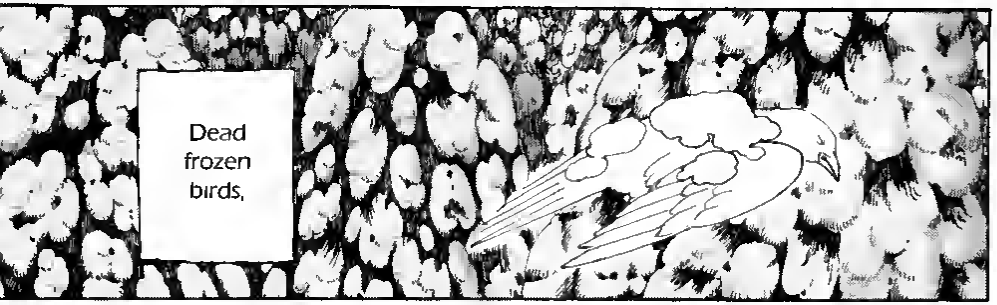
PLOP
PUSH
DING!
I bet you're laughing behind my back too!
"Good enough, good enough.." You're always saying that, never treating me seriously!
No! That's not what I meant!
That's something only a history nerd would know.
Oh, well...
The general readers were fine with it, so isn't that good enough?
Sensei!
I never realized how much you cared about me and my work...
I'm sorry for doubting you.
But you know, I have to say,
I can't imagine ever living in a time when this handy tool wasn't around.
.....
I'm sure the mangaka of that era must have went through hell trying to meticulously construct their stories.
How'd they ever resolve misunderstandings back then?
-End-

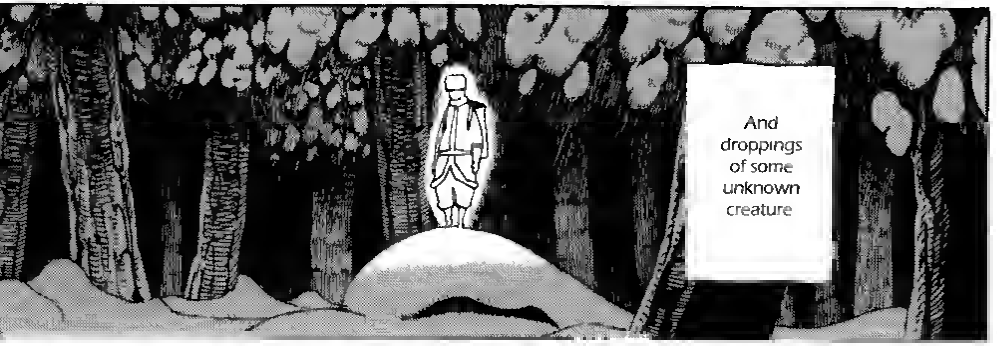
Love letter in shoe locker
(may require more historical documentation)

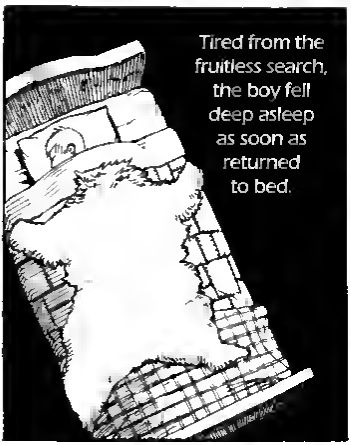
The Spring in the Lake
Once upon a time, there was a long winter.
A winter that seemed to continue on without end
THE SNOW SHOULD HAVE MELTED BY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.
THAT'S STRANGE.

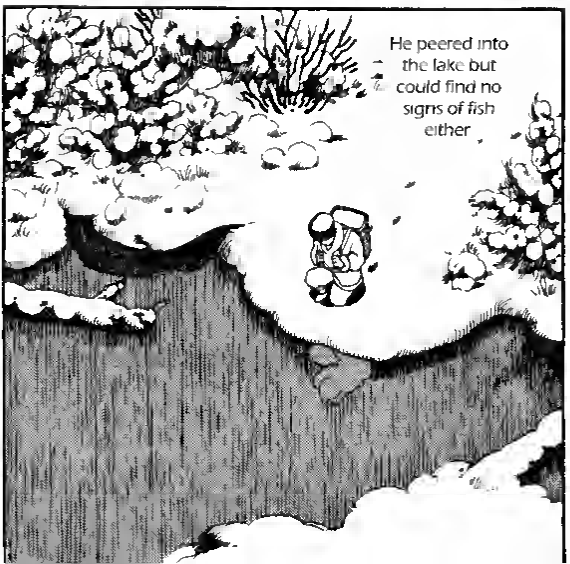

Or if she had gotten caught up in some accident that delayed her arrival
The people began to wonder if perhaps the spring fairy had been trapped at the bottom of a lake by the cruel winter goblin,
A lone village youth
When the stored food began to run low
And the people's worries grew ever higher.
Ventured into the forest


But the forest had nothing but withered trees,


Dead frozen birds,


And droppings of some unknown creature


Tired from the fruitless search, the boy fell deep asleep as soon as returned to bed.

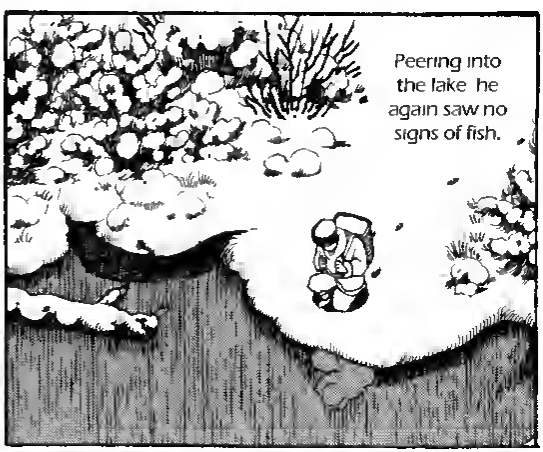

He peered into the lake but could find no signs of fish either

He ventured again into the forest the next day

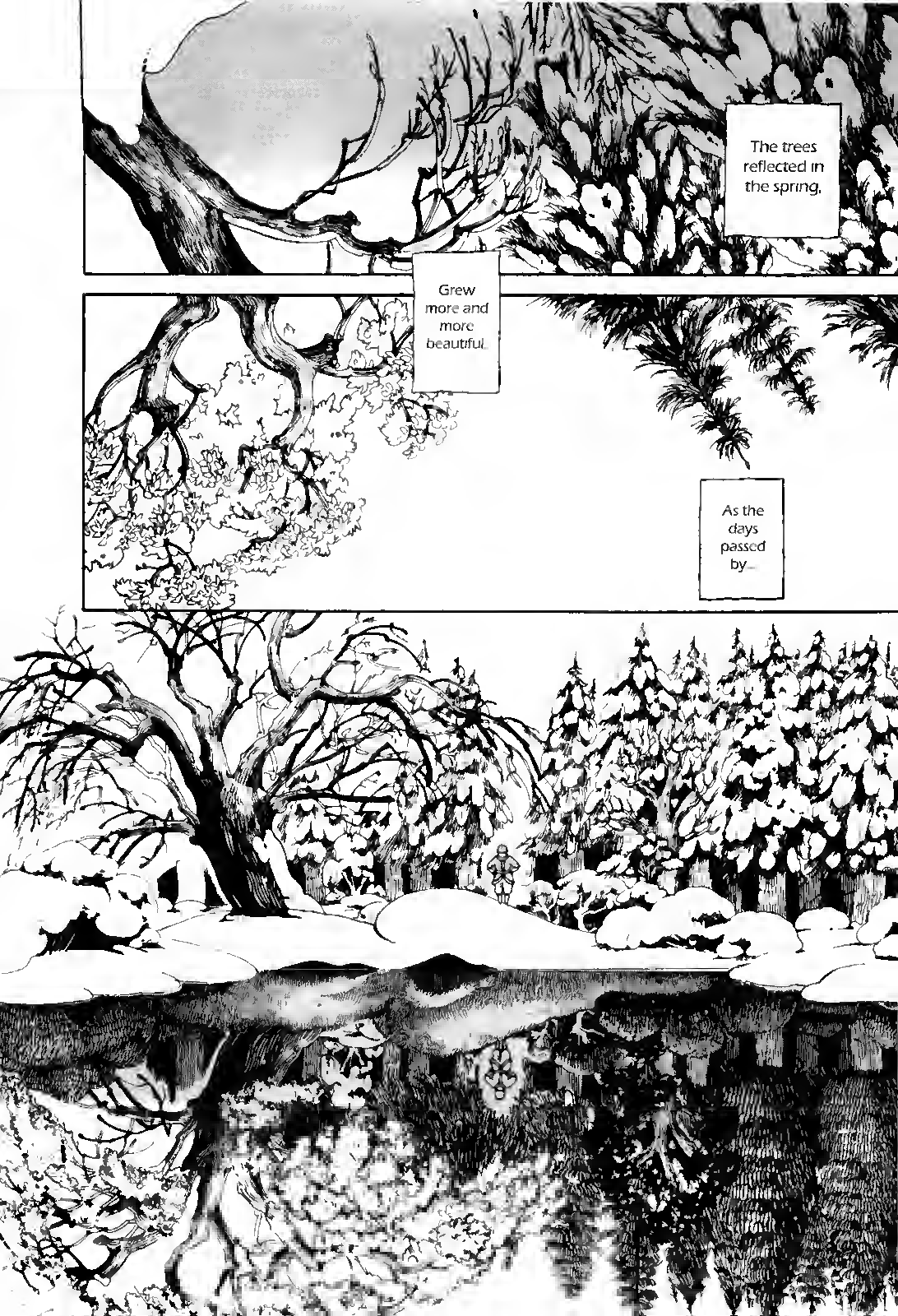
But he could only find frozen blades of grass

And a lone, emaciated deer

However...


Peering into the lake he again saw no signs of fish.

When he gazed into the forest reflected in the pond...
He could make out birds picking at berries growing from trees
The next day, the youth came to gaze at the spring in the lake again
And so he gradually came to believe that perhaps the spring really was trapped in the lake
At that moment
The youth recalled a certain fairy tale
In which the Fairy of the Spring was trapped at the bottom of a lake


The trees reflected in the spring,
Grew more and more beautiful.
As the days passed by...

He could not restrain himself any longer.

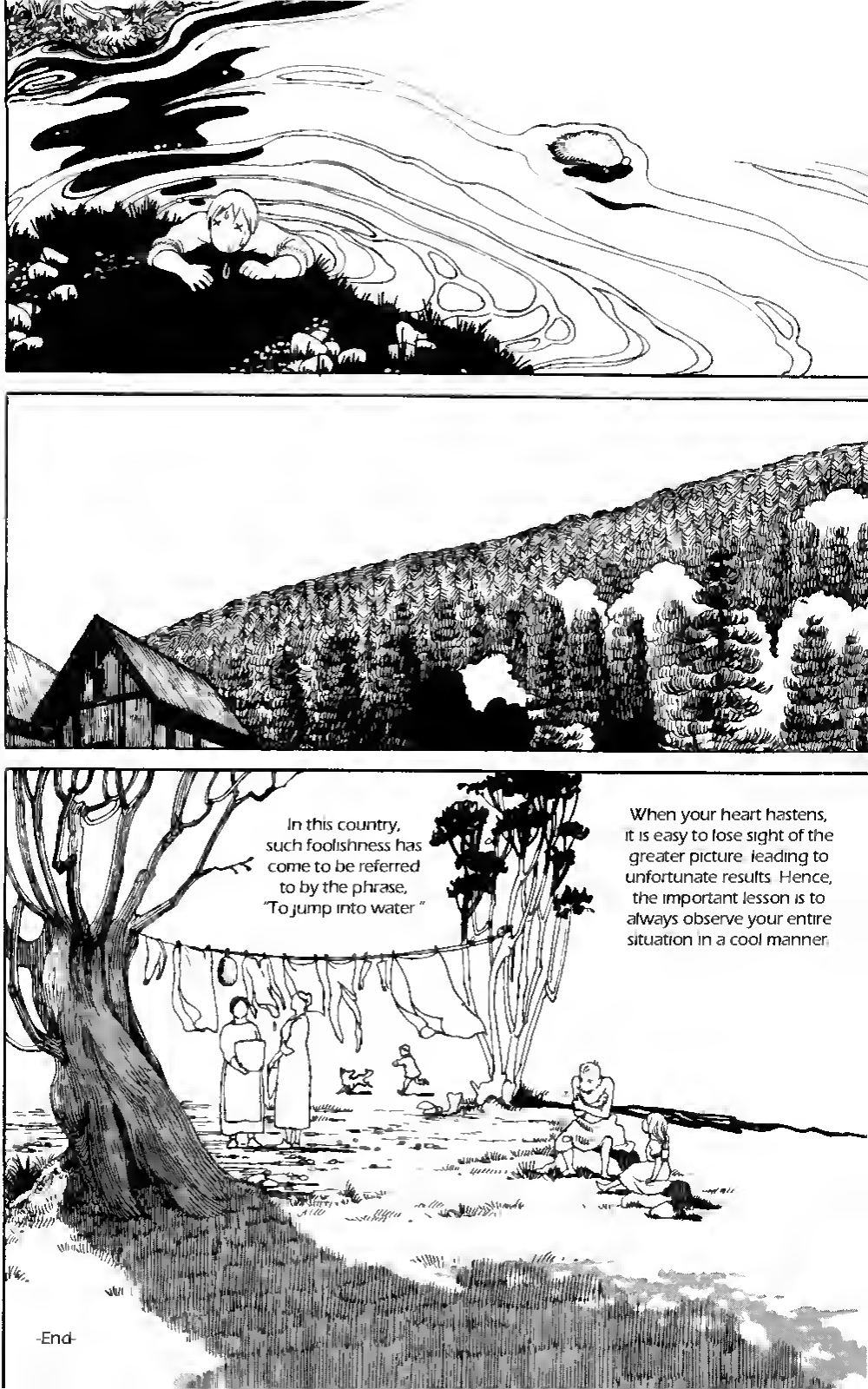
Upon seeing the lake's forest enter a most brilliant spring.

And he dove into the lake

That if he only looked at the actual forest around him.

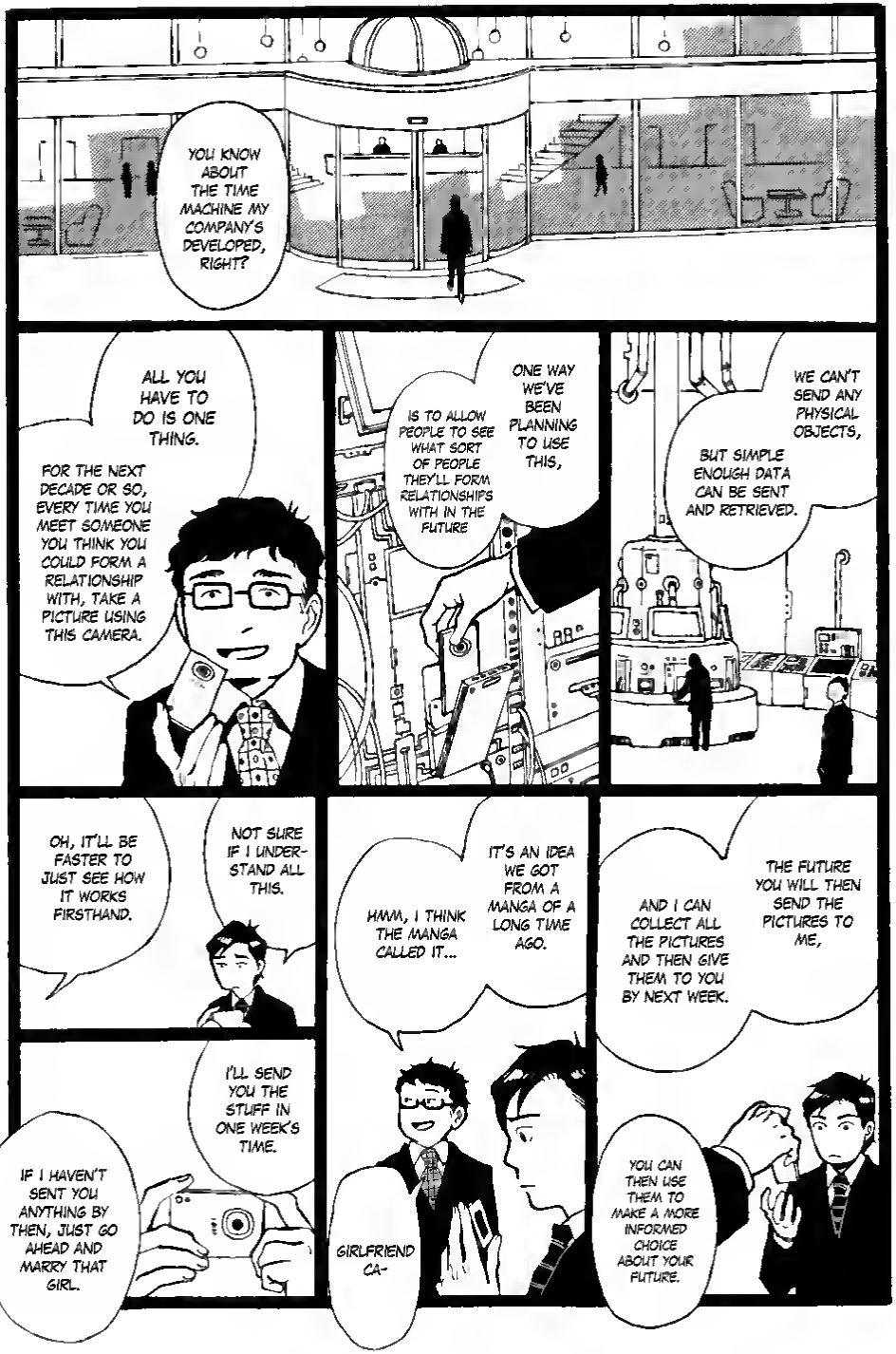
Little did he know,

That the spring in the lake merely reflected the spring above surface


In this country, such foolishness has come to be referred to by the phrase, "To jump into water."
When your heart hastens, it is easy to lose sight of the greater picture leading to unfortunate results. Hence, the important lesson is to always observe your entire situation in a cool manner.
-End-

...THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME OUT TONIGHT.
N-NO, I, UHH. I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
Love Catalogue
THEN, UMM...
RIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
UGH... "GOOD NIGHT?"
MORE LIKE GOOD RIDDANCE.

HUH?
IT'S NOT GOING AT ALL.
HOW'RE THINGS GOING WITH THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER?
WELL?
TELL ME!
EVEN A RICH GIRL CAN'T DISOBEY HER FATHER.
OH...
WELL, I'M SURE SHE DOESN'T TOTALLY HATE YOU SINCE SHE'S AGREEING TO GO OUT WITH YOU.
NAH MAN, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THE BOSS LIKES ME.
SHE NEVER SMILES, NOR MAKES EYE CONTACT, NOR GIVES ME ANY HUMAN SIGN THAT SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF.
ALL WE DO IS HAVE DINNER TOGETHER TWICE A MONTH.
THAT'S HARSH.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT?
...ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
WHAT?
WELL, EVEN IF SHE IS THE WORLD'S WORST WOMAN TO SPEND TIME WITH, SHE IS STILL THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER,
MEANING THAT SHE'S THE BEST POSSIBLE WOMAN TO MARRY AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE.


YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TIME MACHINE MY COMPANY'S DEVELOPED, RIGHT?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ONE THING.
FOR THE NEXT DECADE OR SO, EVERY TIME YOU MEET SOMEONE YOU THINK YOU COULD FORM A RELATIONSHIP WITH, TAKE A PICTURE USING THIS CAMERA.
ONE WAY WE'VE BEEN PLANNING TO USE THIS,
IS TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO SEE WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE THEY'LL FORM RELATIONSHIPS WITH IN THE FUTURE
WE CAN'T SEND ANY PHYSICAL OBJECTS,
BUT SIMPLE ENOUGH DATA CAN BE SENT AND RETRIEVED.
OH, IT'LL BE FASTER TO JUST SEE HOW IT WORKS FIRSTHAND.
NOT SURE IF I UNDER-STAND ALL THIS.
HMM, I THINK THE MANGA CALLED IT...
IT'S AN IDEA WE GOT FROM A MANGA OF A LONG TIME AGO.
AND I CAN COLLECT ALL THE PICTURES AND THEN GIVE THEM TO YOU BY NEXT WEEK.
THE FUTURE YOU WILL THEN SEND THE PICTURES TO ME,
I'LL SEND YOU THE STUFF IN ONE WEEK'S TIME.
IF I HAVEN'T SENT YOU ANYTHING BY THEN, JUST GO AHEAD AND MARRY THAT GIRL.
GIRLFRIEND CA-
YOU CAN THEN USE THEM TO MAKE A MORE INFORMED CHOICE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.

どう
ガサ
HEY,
DID YOU GET AN ENVELOPE YET?
YEAH,
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S THE DATA I TALKED ABOUT BEFORE.
HUH? I HAVEN'T EVEN TAKEN ANY PICTURES YET THOUGH...
JUST OPEN IT.

APPARENTLY, ALL THE GIRLS PICTURED IN THAT ALBUM,
ARE YOUR FUTURE LOVE CANDIDATES, SO TO SPEAK.
WHOA!
WHADDYA THINK?
W-WHAT IS ALL THIS?
AHAHAHA!
ALL WRITTEN BY YOU, PAL.
Very determined. Cries easily. laughs easily. Extremely stubborn to carry through something out to the end once she makes up her mind. Generally good with housework.
ツンデレ
幼い頃から
甘えん下手
料理が
HUH?
ALL THESE CHICKS?
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU PLAYBOY
THERE'S QUITE A LOT OF DETAILED COMMENTS.
SO... ANYBODY THAT STANDS OUT?
Neat and Clean
Like a little-sister
Tsundere
Big breasts
Big breasts?
FEELS LIKE I'M LOOKING AT THE CHARACTER PROFILES OF A DATING SIM GAME.

ARE YOU SURE I CAN DATE ALL THESE GIRLS?
THERE'S NO GUARANTEES.
THESE ARE ALL GIRLS THAT THE FUTURE YOU THOUGHT WAS POSSIBLE TO GO OUT WITH.
SO WHO KNOWS, MAYBE YOU MADE OVER-ESTIMATED YOURSELF ON SOME OF THEM.
Oh...
BUT...
THE POINT IS THAT IF YOU RUSH INTO MARRIAGE NOW,
YOU MAY COME TO REGRET IT WHEN YOU MEET THESE GIRLS IN THE FUTURE.
SO JUST THINK THINGS OVER SLOWLY.

トル…
トルルルル
HELLO?
UMM..
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU SO LATE IN THE EVENING.
BUT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING,
SO I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD GET TOGETHER SOME TIME SOON..
I UNDER-STAND.
THEN HOW ABOUT...
SO LONG, BOSS'S DAUGHTER!
FROM NOW ON, WE CAN BOTH TRY TO FIND REAL LOVE!
THINGS WILL BE PRETTY AWKWARD AROUND THE OFFICE THOUGH...
AND MY CHANCES OF GETTING PROMOTED WILL PLUMMET TOO...
BUT MAYBE THIS IS FOR THE BEST..
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO LATE...!
AH! NO, NO, IT'S F-

WHAT IN THE WORLD!?
WHA!?
WHA...
UHH...
I WENT FOR AN IMAGE-CHANGE.
はぇ はぇ
S-SO I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU...
I... DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE INTO THIS KIND OF LOOK,
B-BUT I GET SO NERVOUS WHENEVER WE MEET...
M-M-MY FRIENDS GAVE ME SOME TIPS ON HOW TO PUT ON MAKEUP SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT TRY IT OUT...
IS... IS IT NO GOOD...?
HUH?
I...
I NEVER TRIED PUTTING ON MAKEUP BEFORE SO...
UMM... W-
WHAT DO YOU THINK? DOES IT SUIT ME?

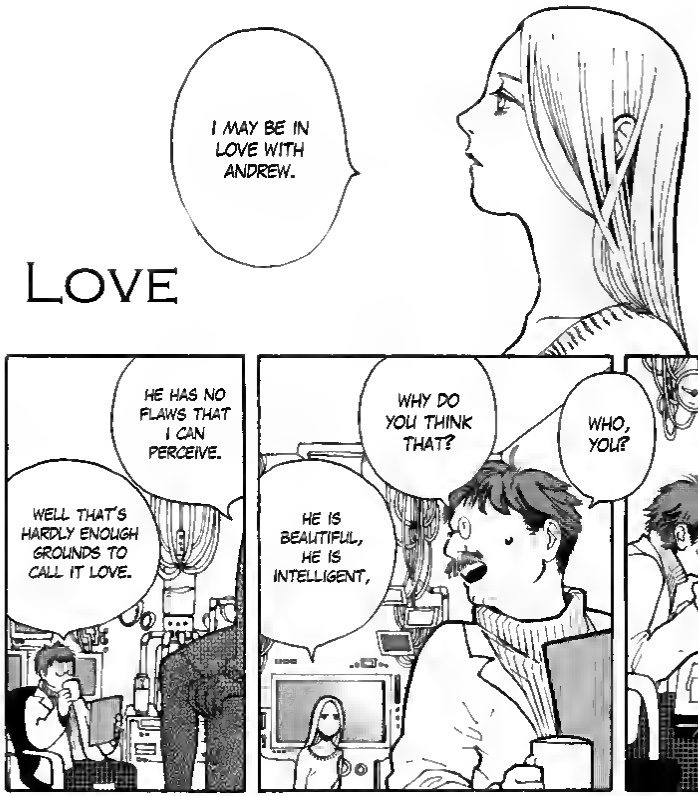
NOOO!
IT'S TOO EMBARRA-SSING!
I'M LEAVING.
NO- WAIT! WAIT!
C'MON! LET ME GET A CLOSER LOOK!
ガーン
...IT'S A TOTAL FLOP.
PFFT!
…!?
SORRY, SORRY.
はー はー
YOU LOOK CUTE THOUGH, REALLY.
AHAHA HAHAHA HA HA HAHAHA
I WANT TO SHOW IT TO THE ME OF YESTERDAY.
C'mon, say cheese!
THE ME WHO DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO YOU REALLY WERE.
ごめん.
COME ON, THIS'LL BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
NOOO!
CAN I TAKE A PIC?

SO...
YOU DECIDED TO MARRY THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER AFTER ALL, HUH...
I just don't get you, man.
I THREW THAT OUT.
YOU WHAT?
WELL...
WAS THE CATALOGUE I SENT YOU USEFUL AT LEAST?
TAKES THE WHOLE FUN AWAY FROM FINDING THINGS OUT AS THEY COME.
?

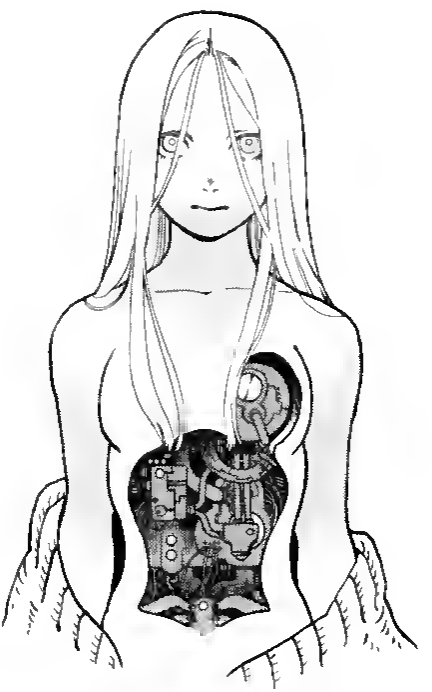
FIERCELY DETERMINED, GOOD WITH HOUSEWORK,
How's it taste?
TIMID AND SCARES EASILY,
You don't have to push yourself so hard...
Umm...
A TERRIBLE COOK AND CLUMSY AROUND THE KITCHEN,
If I said I'll do it... I'LL DO IT!
NO, NOTHING
WHAT WAS THAT?
SO THEY WERE ALL YOU ALL ALONG...
OH,
JUST THINKING OUT LOUD AT HOW HAPPY I AM.
NAH... IT CAN'T BE...
Ahaha...
Who the hell is this?
Very strong
Scary
ME TOO!
Shit

おわり

Love


I MAY BE IN LOVE WITH ANDREW.
HE HAS NO FLAWS THAT I CAN PERCEIVE.
WELL THAT'S HARDLY ENOUGH GROUNDS TO CALL IT LOVE.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
WHO, YOU?
HE IS BEAUTIFUL, HE IS INTELLIGENT,
ふっ
I FEEL SO SMALL AND INSIGNIFICANT COMPARED TO HIM.
THAT MAY BE MORE ADMIRATION THAN LOVE, IF YOU ASK ME.
AND WHEN HE'S NEAR ME, MY PULSE QUICKENS, MY LIMB STIFFENS, AND I AM UNABLE TO MOVE AS I NORMALLY DO.
WHEN I DON'T SEE HIM, I FEEL UNEASY,
I GAZE AT EVERY SINGLE MOVEMENT HE MAKES, NO MATTER HOW MINUTE.
MY EYES FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE GOES BEFORE I EVEN REALIZE I'M DOING IT.

IS THIS NOT LOVE THAT I AM FEELING?
HARD TO SAY...
AND HE APPEARS SO FREQUENTLY IN MY DREAMS THAT I FEEL AS IF I MIGHT LOSE MY MIND.
WHETHER AWAKE OR ASLEEP, HE NEVER STRAYS FROM MY THOUGHTS,
I FEEL DESPONDENT WHEN I SEE HIM ENJOYING HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER,
AND I FEEL TORN TO PIECES IF SOMEONE TELLS HIM SHE LIKES HIM.
HUMAN EMOTIONS ARE COMPLEX THINGS, AREN'T THEY...
I SEE...
BUT I KNOW FOR SURE THAT I NEITHER LOVE NOR AM INFATUATED WITH HIM.
WELL...
EVEN WITH ALL THESE SYMPTOMS, YOU CANNOT CONCLUDE THIS AS LOVE?
I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME AS YOU TOWARDS HIM,
ANDREW!
I JUST NEED TO DELETE A FEW UNNECESSARY THINGS.
IT'LL BE QUICK.
OH, THERE'S NO REAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN.
WILL SHE BE ALRIGHT?
I'D LIKE TO CHECK YOUR PROGRAM TOO JUST IN CASE.
I HAPPENED TO FIND A BUG WITH EMMA.
A BUG WITH EMMA?
-END-



かわいそうな動物園
The Pitiful Zoo

HUH?
AND THE ONE WITH STRIPES IS...
MISTER TIGER!
MISTER LION!
IT'S BIG, ISN'T IT?
The birds flew away, honey
THERE WAS ACTUALLY A MISHAP THE OTHER DAY AND IT GOT OUT OF ITS CAGE...
NO,
DID IT, UMM... DIE?
THERE'S NO BIRD IN THIS CAGE.
SACHIKO'S ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH!
OH...
YOU'RE RIGHT...

AHHH!
NOT YET, BUT ANY TIME NOW...
HAS SHE GIVEN BIRTH YET?
AHH! BUT LOOK!
IT'S A GIRL!
A GIRL AT LAST...
A GIRL!
IT'S OUT!
WHAT SEX!?
TEXTBOOK MELANIN DEFICIENCY... IT'S AN ALBINO.
IT'S WHITE...

GIVEN PROPER CARE, I'M SURE THAT-
BUT THAT'S ONLY WHEN GROWING IN THE WILD.
YES, I KNOW ALBINOS TEND TO HAVE WEAKER CONSTITUTIONS,
I'M AGAINST THIS!
WE HAVE A STRICT NUMBER OF LARGE SCALE ANIMALS WE CAN RAISE WE EITHER KILL THE BABY OR THE ADULT.
YOU KNOW JUST AS WELL AS THE REST OF US THAT WE CAN'T SPARE THAT EXPENSE
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE!
MAYBE WE COULD CHARGE EXTRA FEES FOR PEOPLE TO SEE IT...
IF IT'S ABOUT EXPENSE,
WE'RE NOT HERE TO GAMBLE.
WE MUST MAKE SACHIKO BEAR ANOTHER CHILD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BUT WE CAN'T JUST...
.....

HANG IN THERE.
OWW!
ガーン
ガーン
JUST HOW LONG WILL THIS GO ON...
ぐしゃ
ぐしゃ
ゴロン
ゴロゴロ
I DON'T KNOW...
WHY MUST THESE CREATURES BEAR THE SINS...
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO DO ALL THIS?

AHHHH!
AGHHH!
AGHH!
Don't you know how dangerous this is!?
Let go, you idiot!
UMM, EXCUSE ME?
NO WAIT! I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS!

THIS PLACE IS RESTRICTED ACCESS, YOU KNOW...
W-WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, LITTLE GIRL?
A BIRD IN THE SKY!?
OH, A LITTLE BIRDIE IN THE SKY...
DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE THE ONE THAT ESCAPED?
UMM, THERE'S A BIRD FLYING IN THE SKY.
WE HAVE TO CATCH IT!
QUICKLY!
ドタ
バタ

ばっ
AH-
THERE IT IS!
HEEEEY!
Heeeeeeey!
Down here!
It's time for your meal!
Come back to us!
SEEMS LIKE IT MANAGED JUST FINE ON ITS OWN.
YOU'RE RIGHT,
I WONDER HOW ..

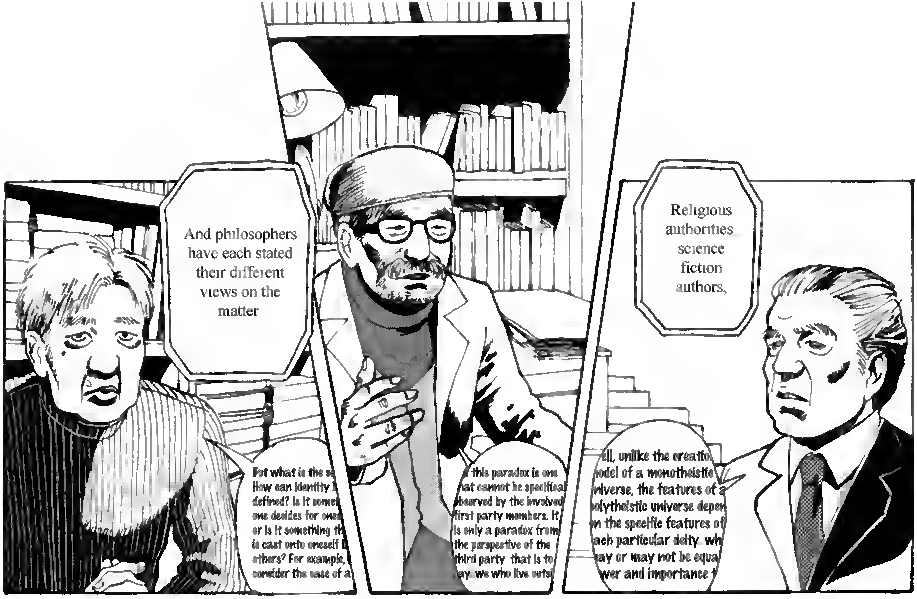
AHAHA
HA
HAHAHA
HA!
Splash
AH, IT POOPED.
NO...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
WHAT? BUT IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING-
AND THERE'S ALSO NO NEED EITHER,
TO KILL THE BABY ELEPHANT ANYMORE..
SHOULD WE SET UP A BAIT TO TRAP HER?
IT'S NOT COMING DOWN AT ALL.
THIS IS...
AN OLIVE LEAF.
-End-

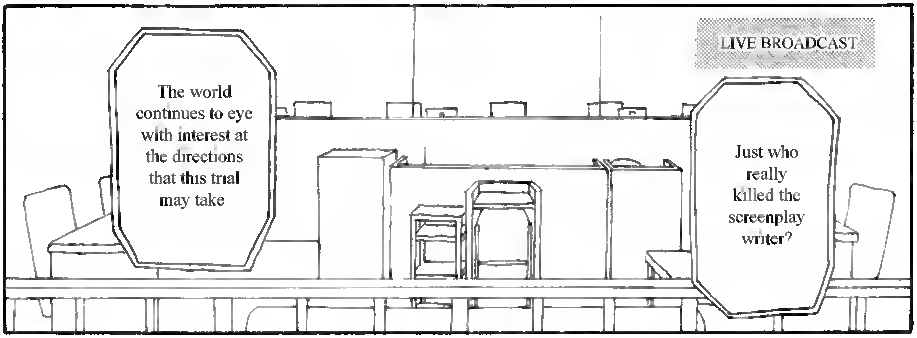
MURDERER
PARADOX
LELIA!
LELIA! STAY WITH ME!
I...
がく
LIVED A...
HAPPY LIFE...
LELIA!
DEAR...

WHY...
WHY HAS GOD ORDAINED SUCH CRUEL FATE TO ME...
CURSE HIM...
CURSE THIS WRETCHED WORLD AND THE GOD WHO CREATED IT!
ぐわっ
I...
I WILL KILL GOD!

MR. TANAKA?
?
DIE, GOD!
GAAHH!
ばん

The trial over the homicide of a movie screenplay writer on the 6th of last month rages on
Arrested Murder Suspect
Tanaka Kouki Age 42
The suspect Tanaka Kouki testified that he had been thoroughly immersed in his role as the lead actor at the moment of the act and did not commit the murder as himself.
Which has turned into the focal point of the trial
THE WAY HE ACTED AT THAT MOMENT... IT WAS REALLY AS IF HE WERE POSSESSED.
HENCE, A MAN CANNOT BE TRIED FOR A CRIME COMMITTED IN A NON-EXISTANT UNIVERSE
Thus was their main assertion
THEN THAT WOULD MEAN THE UNIVERSE OF HIS FICTIONAL WORLD WOULD CEASE TO EXIST
The defense
IF THE GOD, THAT IS TO SAY, THE SCREENPLAY WRITER, WERE TO DIE,
SINCE EACH MOVIE IS THE PRODUCT OF MULTIPLE PEOPLE'S EFFFORTS, EACH UNIVERSE IS ALSO POLYTHEISTIC AND HENCE, CANNOT COME TO AN END WITH THE DEATH OF A SINGLE GOD
Responded with this argument
The prosecution
THE MOVIE INDUSTRY INVOLVES SCORES OF PEOPLE
BUT IF HE REALLY BELIEVED HE WAS A CHARACTER IN THAT FICTIONAL WORLD, THEN JUST HOW COULD HE KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE VICTIM AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME?


And philosophers have each stated their different views on the matter
Religious authorities science fiction authors,


LIVE BROADCAST
The world continues to eye with interest at the directions that this trial may take
Just who really killed the screenplay writer?

Uhh, it was obviously Tanaka

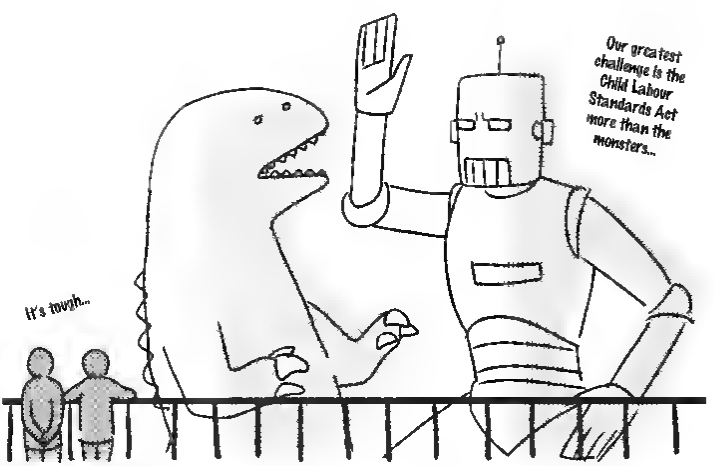
-End-

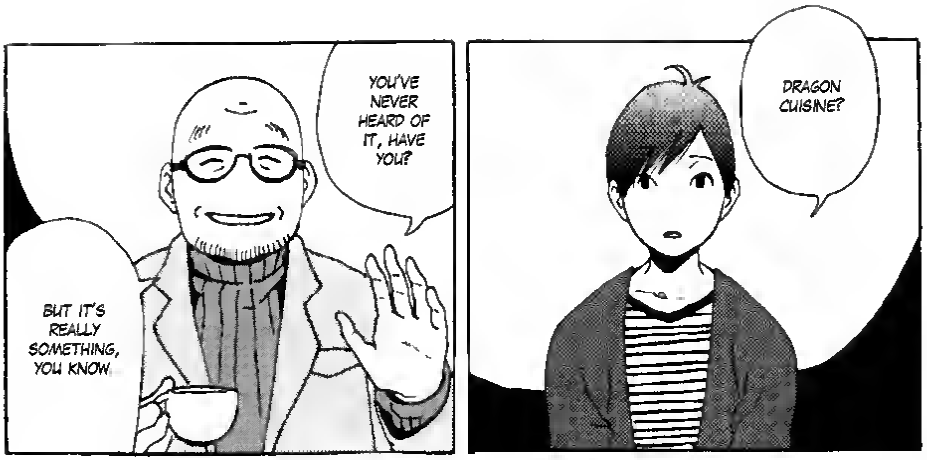
FUTURE INTERVIEW

YES, SIR!
I WISH TO DO ALL THAT I CAN TO BETTER THE SOCIETY AND WORLD I LIVE IN BY BRINGING PEACE TO...
FIRST QUESTION...
PLEASE TELL US ABOUT WHY YOU APPLIED FOR THIS JOB.

HOW'RE THE INTERVIEWS GOING?
HM? OH, WELL...
SO-SO... I GUESS...
HEY, HEY, BE MORE SERIOUS ABOUT SELECTING GOOD CANDIDATES.
THE FATE OF THE WORLD DEPENDS ON IT, AFTER ALL.
SOME "SO-SO" CANDIDATE AIN'T GONNA CUT IT.
YEAH, YEAH...
IT'S JUST...
THIS FUTURE WE LIVE IN IS A LOT MORE DULL THAN I'D EXPECTED...

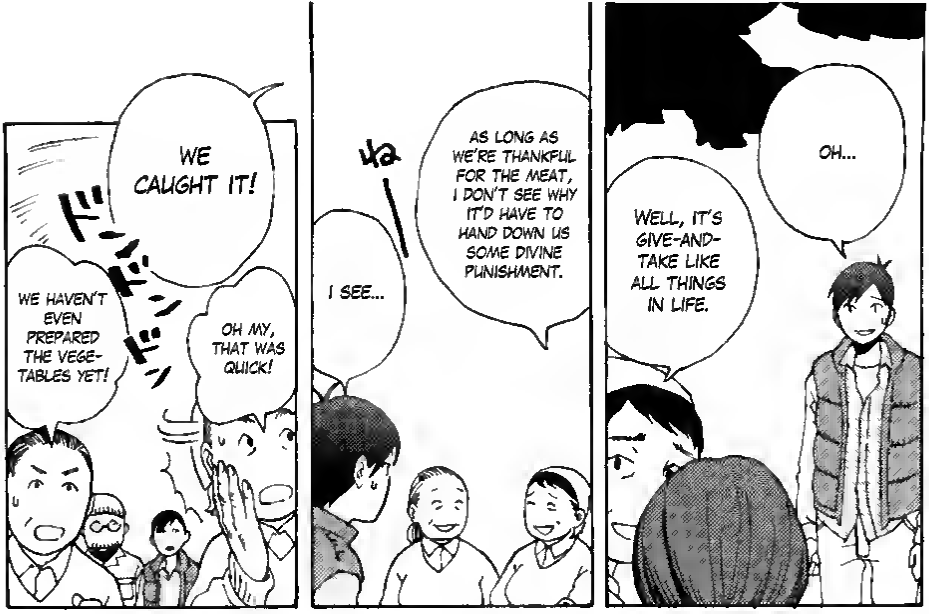
-End-

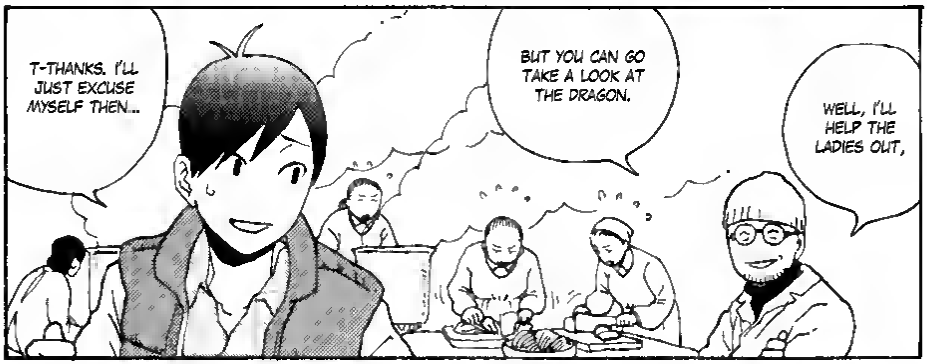

Our greatest challenge is the Child Labour Standards Act more than the monsters...
It's mwah...

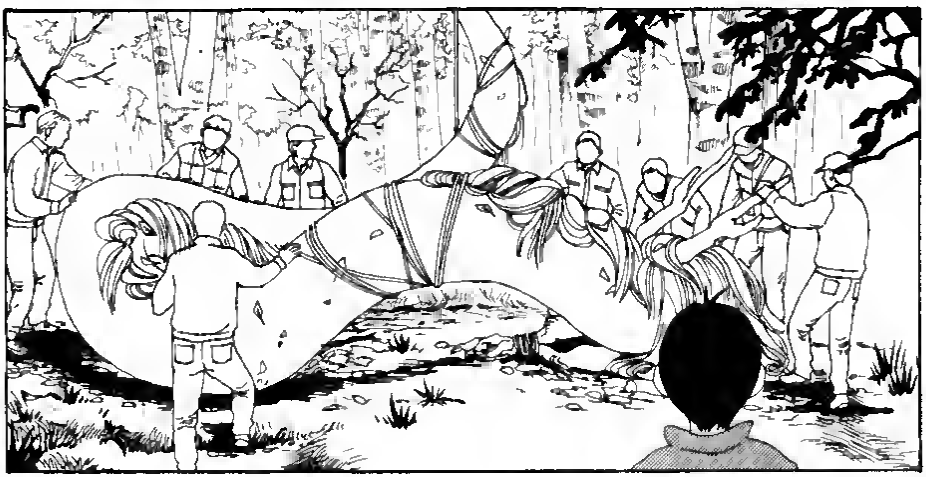


Wrath of the Dragon

I THOUGHT I'D TRY INVITING YOU.
IT'S SOMETHING I DO AROUND EVERY NEW YEAR'S,
BUT BECAUSE MY GOURMET FRIEND IS TOO BUSY TO MAKE IT THIS YEAR,
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN GET IN THE CITY.
YOU'VE GOTTA GO WAY INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE ANNUAL HUNT IN THE MOUNTAINS,
TO GET THE RARE CHANCE OF TRYING SOME DRAGON MEAT.
ISN'T IT SORT OF.. BAD TO EAT A DRAGON? SINCE THEY'RE THE MESSENGERS OF HEAVEN AND ALL...
WELL, I AM INTERESTED BUT...
OH, IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
WE'VE BEEN EATING IT SINCE WE WERE KIDS!
AND LOOK AT US! WE'RE STILL FINE!


OH...
WELL, IT'S GIVE-AND-TAKE LIKE ALL THINGS IN LIFE.
AS LONG AS WE'RE THANKFUL FOR THE MEAT, I DON'T SEE WHY IT'D HAVE TO HAND DOWN US SOME DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
HA
I SEE...
WE CAUGHT IT!
ドンドンドン
OH MY, THAT WAS QUICK!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN PREPARED THE VEGE-TABLES YET!


WELL, I'LL HELP THE LADIES OUT,
BUT YOU CAN GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE DRAGON.
T-THANKS. I'LL JUST EXCUSE MYSELF THEN...



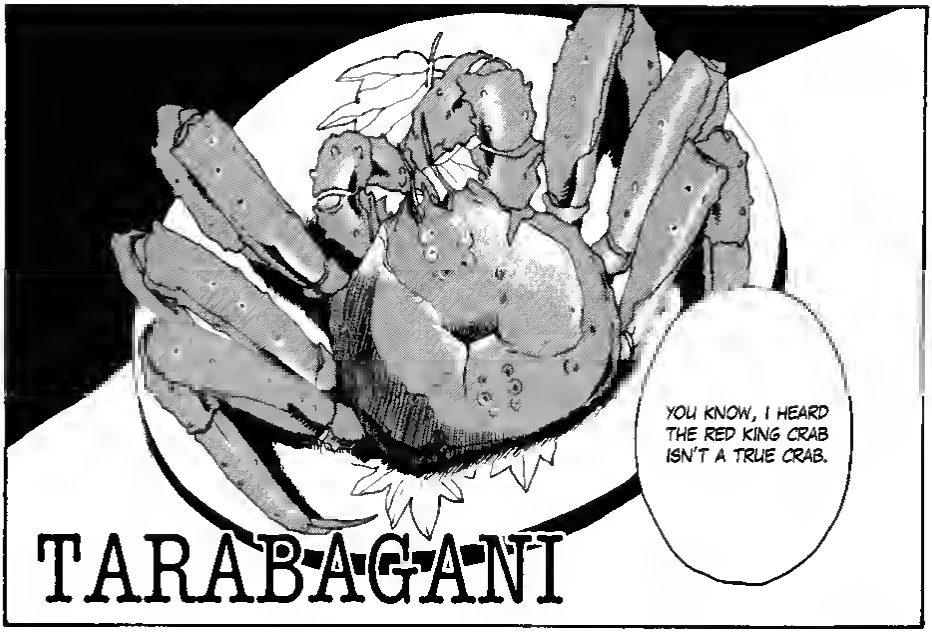
*THE SUPPOSED "WEAK-SPOT" OF A JAPANESE DRAGON

IS THIS REALLY OKAY...?
AHH...
I'VE GOT A REAL BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS...
ON THE COUNT OF ONE.. TWO...
THREE!
YOU JUST GRAB RIGHT HERE,
AND THE WHOLE THING PEELS RIGHT OFF, LIKE TAKING OFF A SHIRT.
Whoa...
IT'S PRETTY COOL.
NO?
UM...
HEY, KID! YOU KNOW HOW TO DESCALE A DRAGON?
AFTER TENDERIZING THE TENDON, IT'S MIXED IN WITH ONIONS, GINGER, AND SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS TO MAKE INTO DUMPLINGS.
THE BLOOD IS LET OUT, THE SKIN IS PEELED OFF, AND THE ORGANS ARE GENTLY REMOVED BEFORE DIFFERENT CUTS OF MEAT ARE TAKEN OUT.

NO I MEANT JINJA (SHRINE), NOT GINGER.
WELL, THEY ARE USING GINGER.
SORT OF SMELLS LIKE A SHRINE...
ONCE WRAPPING IT, THE DUMPLINGS ARE LIGHTLY BOILED IN A SOUP.
BUT IT JUST FEELS WRONG FOR A COMPLETE OUTSIDER LIKE ME TO COME AND EAT THE LOCAL DEITY...
MAYBE IT'S FINE FOR THE LOCALS TO EAT IT,
Look, look!
You can tell how old it was by counting the rings!
JUST TAKEN ABACK AT THE DRAGON A BIT, THAT'S ALL...
OH, I'M...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK UNWELL.
OH!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?
THE SASHIMI'S DONE.
AND SERVED AS SASHIMI ALONG WITH HOT SAKE
THE LIVER AND WHITE-MEAT WERE RINSED WITH ICE-COLD WATER,
HAHAHA, AREN'T YOU A BIT SENTIMENTAL.
スィ
WELL, BUT...

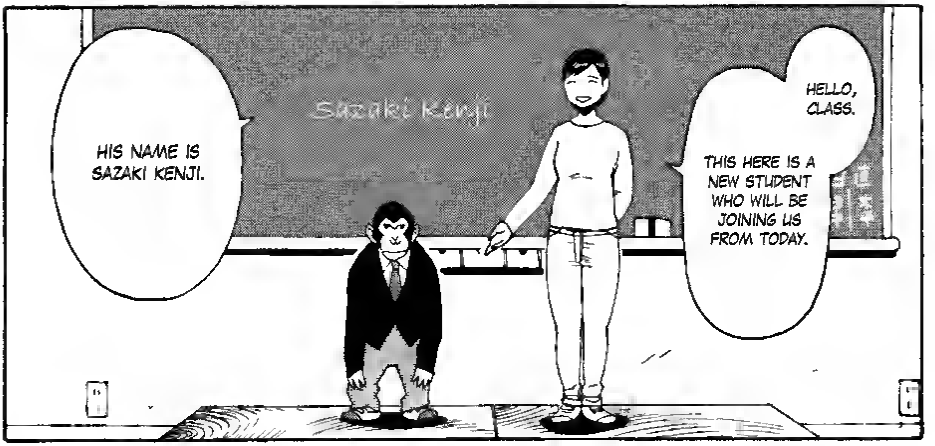
IT'S SO MUCH MORE RICH IN FLAVOUR THAN REGULAR LIVER SASHIMI.
AND THE ACCOMPANYING RAW FLESH TASTES GOOD TOO.
はむ
AHH!
IT'S DELICIOUS!
THE SOUP LIGHTLY SEASONED WITH JAPANESE PEPPER AND GINGER WARMED MY ENTIRE BODY UP.
GOOD, RIGHT?
VERY GOOD.
MEAN-WHILE,
THE SMELL OF DRAGON FAT SIZZLING ON A CHARCOAL GRILL... IS UNDESCRIBABLE.
SO THIS IS DRAGON MEAT...
WITH FLAVOUR LIKE THIS, EVEN IF YOU WERE TO RECEIVE DIVINE PUNISHMENT FOR EATING IT,
DON'T YOU WANT TO COME BACK FOR SECONDS..?

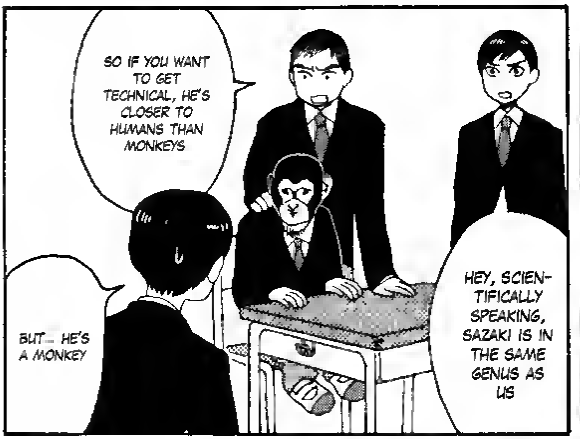
YOU HAVE TO BE!
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING..
OTHERWISE, HOW COULD A GOURMET FRIEND OF YOURS, OF ALL PEOPLE,
JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.
N-
NO!
W-
WHA-
WHAT'S THAT... SUPPOSED TO MEAN...
THERE HAS TO BE SOME EXPLANA-TION!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR A GOURMET!
TURN DOWN EATING SOMETHING AS DELICIOUS AS THIS!
SO THEN... HE REALLY WAS STRUCK BY DIVINE PUNISH-MENT!?
BAD LUCK!?
HE... HAD SOME BAD LUCK, THAT'S ALL...
A GASTRO-NOMICAL PUNISH-MENT...
FOOD POISONING FROM THE RAW MEAT, HUH...
-END-
AH-
URP!?
NOT ANOTHER REPEAT OF LAST YEAR!

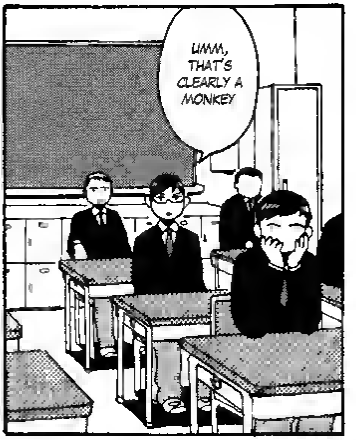

YOU KNOW, I HEARD THE RED KING CRAB ISN'T A TRUE CRAB.
TARABAGANI

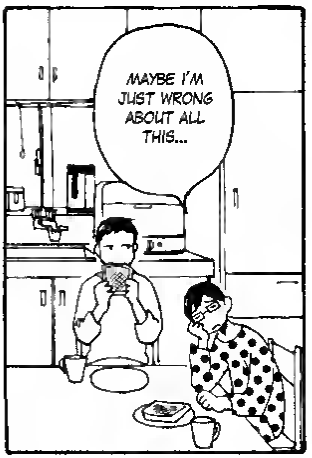
WHILE THE RED KING CRAB IS IN THE INFRAORDER ANOMURA, MAKING IT CLOSER TO A SQUAT LOBSTER OR A HERMIT CRAB
HUH...

WELL, SCIENTIFICALLY SPEAKING, ALL TRUE CRABS ARE IN THE INFRAORDER BRACHYURA,
WUT
BUT IT'S CLEARLY A CRAB.


Sazaki Kenji
HIS NAME IS SAZAKI KENJI.
HELLO, CLASS.
THIS HERE IS A NEW STUDENT WHO WILL BE JOINING US FROM TODAY.


SO IF YOU WANT TO GET TECHNICAL, HE'S CLOSER TO HUMANS THAN MONKEYS
BUT... HE'S A MONKEY
HEY, SCIENTIFICALLY SPEAKING, SAZAKI IS IN THE SAME GENUS AS US


UMM, THAT'S CLEARLY A MONKEY


MAYBE I'M JUST WRONG ABOUT ALL THIS...

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SO YOU JUDGE PEOPLE PURELY ON THEIR LOOKS!?
APOLOGIZE TO SAZAKI RIGHT NOW!
THE REAL ANIMAL HERE IS YOU!

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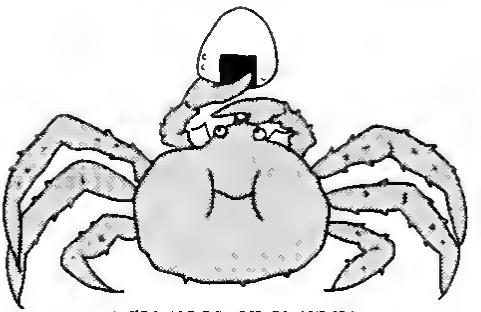
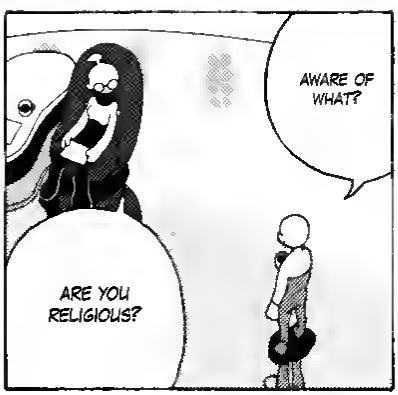
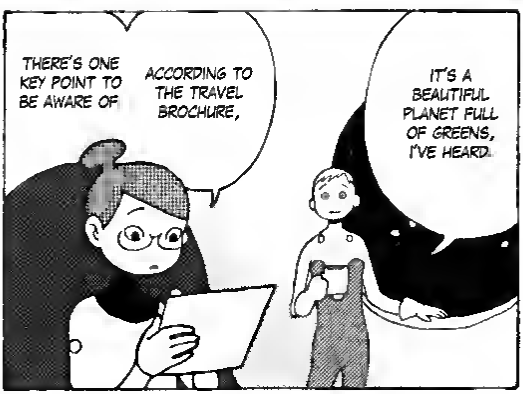
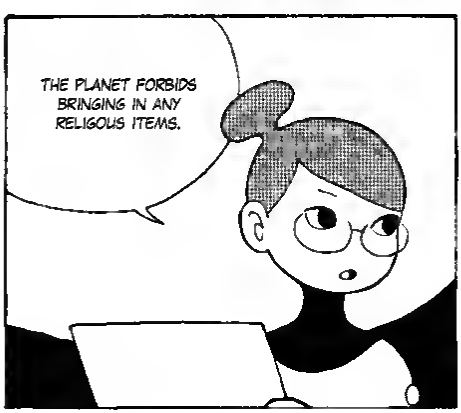


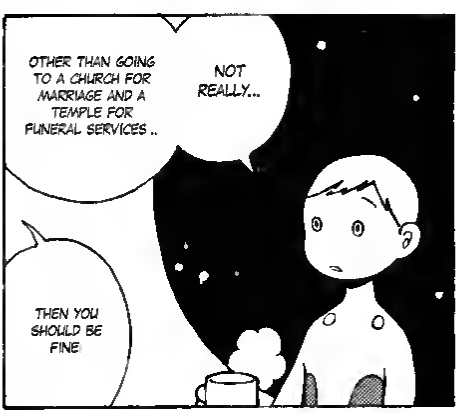
WE'RE NOT RELATED TO SPIDERS

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME VISITING THIS PLANET.
PERO-PERO.
Lingering Grudge

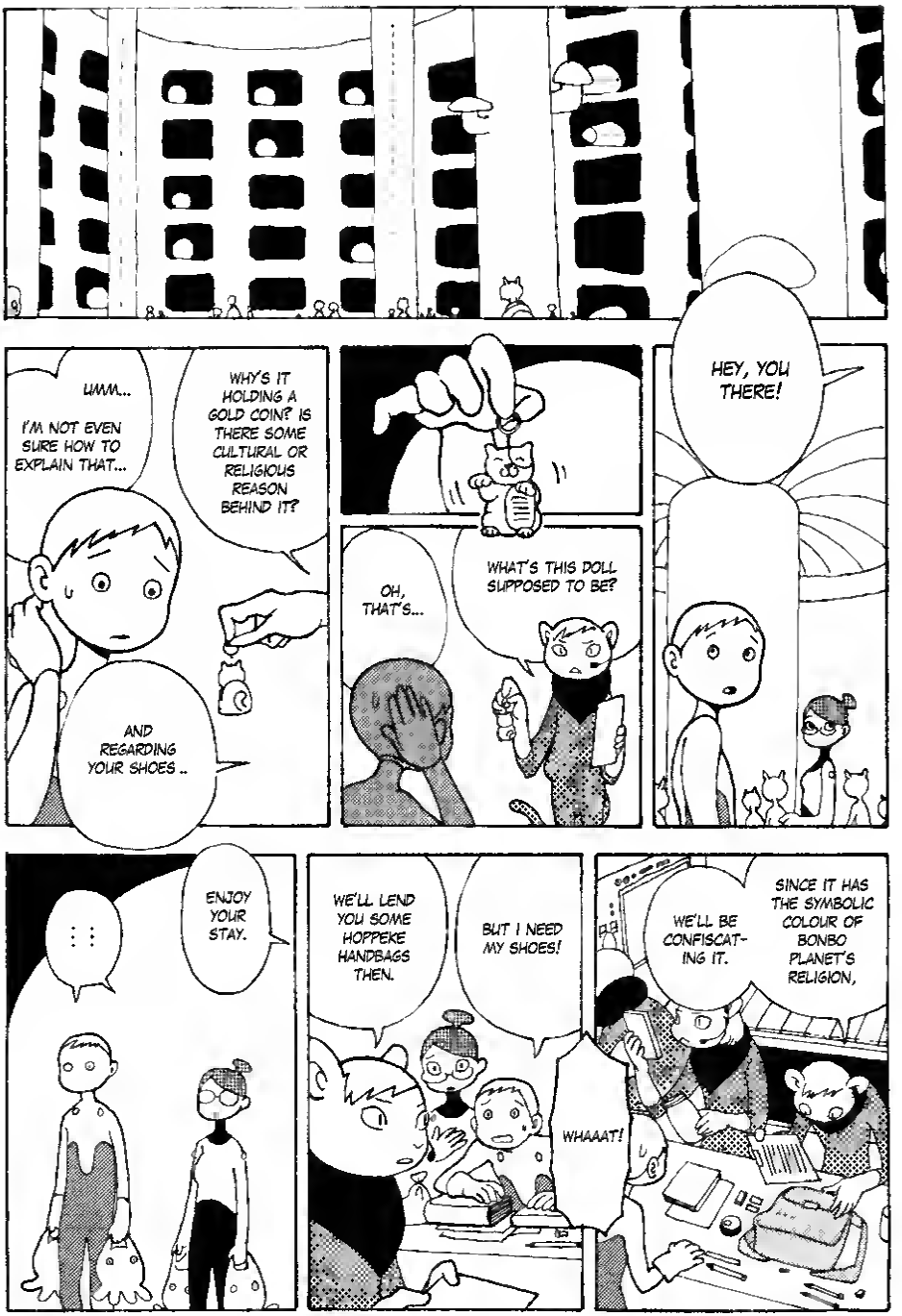

AWARE OF WHAT?
ARE YOU RELIGIOUS?

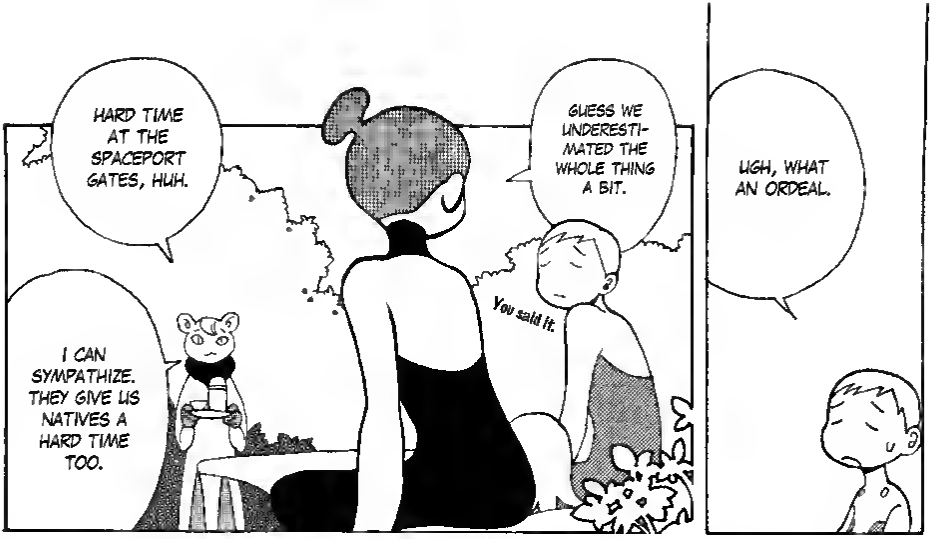

THERE'S ONE KEY POINT TO BE AWARE OF
ACCORDING TO THE TRAVEL BROCHURE,
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PLANET FULL OF GREENS, I'VE HEARD.

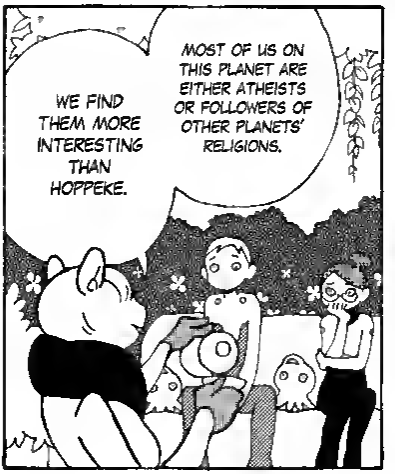

THE PLANET FORBIDS BRINGING IN ANY RELIGOUS ITEMS.

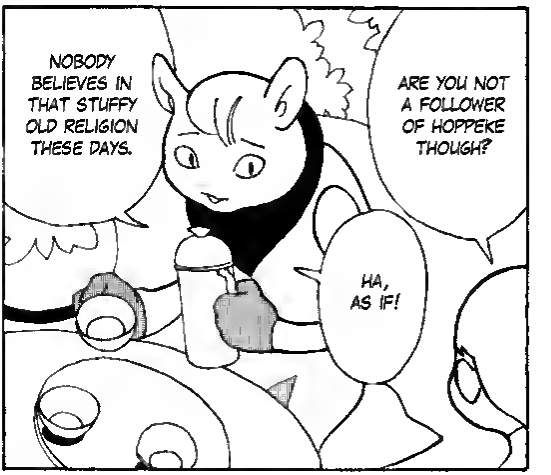

OTHER THAN GOING TO A CHURCH FOR MARRIAGE AND A TEMPLE FOR FUNERAL SERVICES ..
NOT REALLY...
THEN YOU SHOULD BE FINE

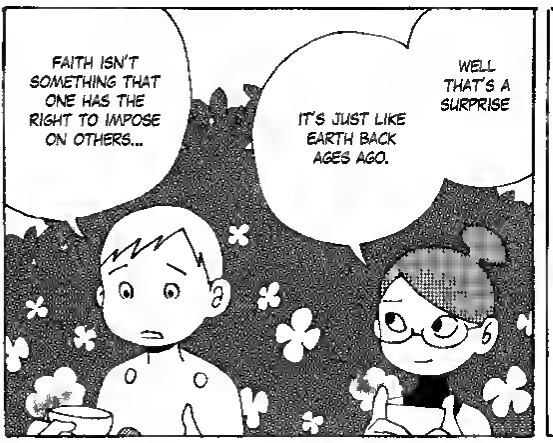
APPARENTLY, THE HOPPEKE RELIGION IS THE DOMINANT RELIGION NATIVE TO THIS PLANET, SO ITS INHABITANTS TAKE STRICT PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT IT.
Oh...
OR RELATED ITEMS LIKE PRAYER BEADS ARE ALL STRICTLY FORBIDDEN,
AND WILL BE CONFISCATED AT THE SPACEPORT.
THAT'S PRETTY STRICT.
RELIGIOUS TEXTS, FIGURINES,
ATTENTION ALL PASSENGERS. AS WE'LL BE LANDING SHORTLY,
WE ASK YOU TO PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR SEATS.


UMM...
I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW TO EXPLAIN THAT...
WHY'S IT HOLDING A GOLD COIN? IS THERE SOME CULTURAL OR RELIGIOUS REASON BEHIND IT?
AND REGARDING YOUR SHOES..
OH, THAT'S...
WHAT'S THIS DOLL SUPPOSED TO BE?
HEY, YOU THERE!
ENJOY YOUR STAY.
WE'LL LEND YOU SOME HOPPEKE HANDBAGS THEN.
BUT I NEED MY SHOES!
WHAAAT!
WE'LL BE CONFISCATING IT.
SINCE IT HAS THE SYMBOLIC COLOUR OF BONBO PLANET'S RELIGION,

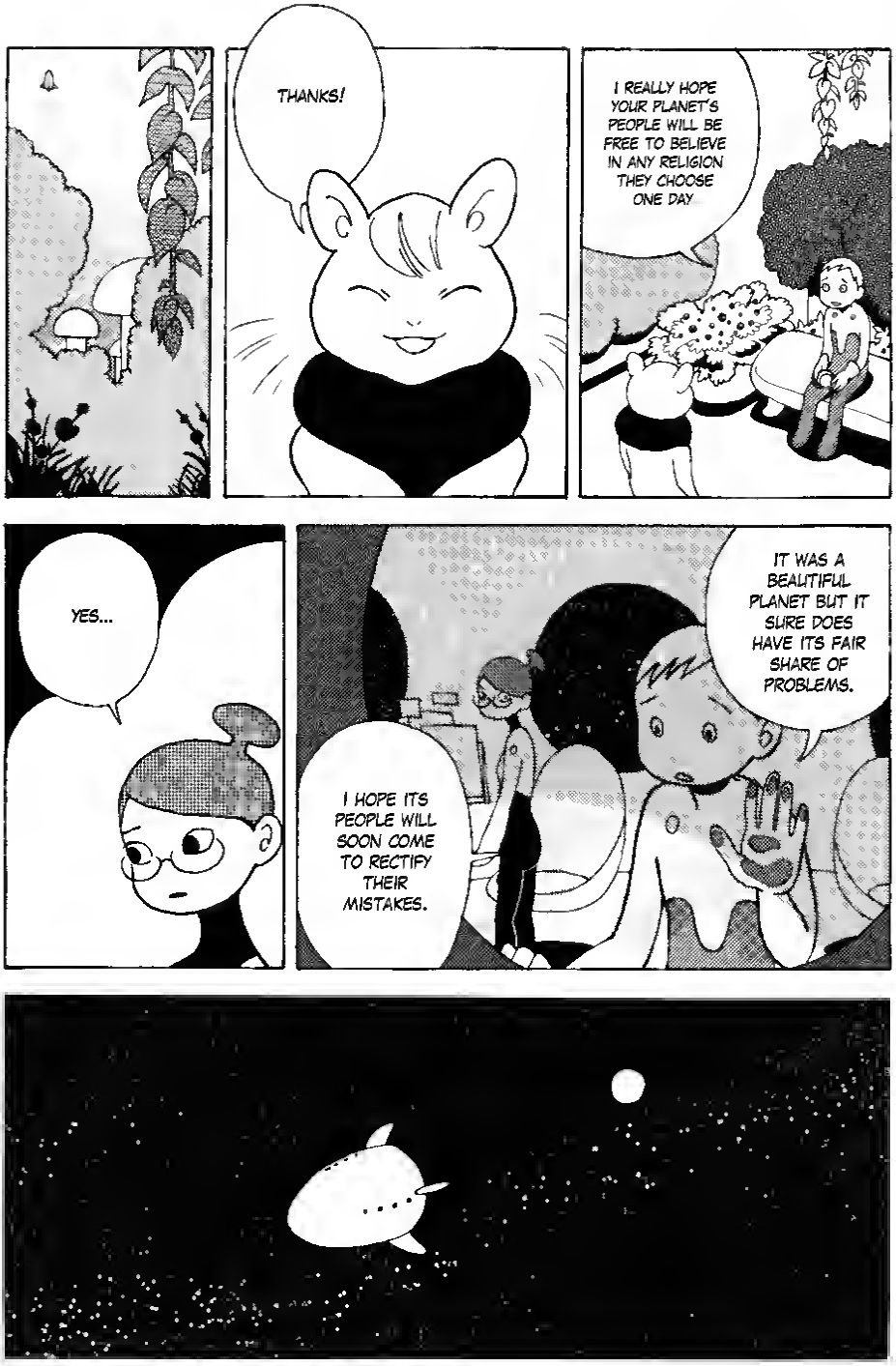

HARD TIME AT THE SPACEPORT GATES, HUH.
I CAN SYMPATHIZE. THEY GIVE US NATIVES A HARD TIME TOO.
GUESS WE UNDERESTIMATED THE WHOLE THING A BIT.
You said it.
UGH, WHAT AN ORDEAL.


WE FIND THEM MORE INTERESTING THAN HOPPEKE.
MOST OF US ON THIS PLANET ARE EITHER ATHEISTS OR FOLLOWERS OF OTHER PLANETS' RELIGIONS.

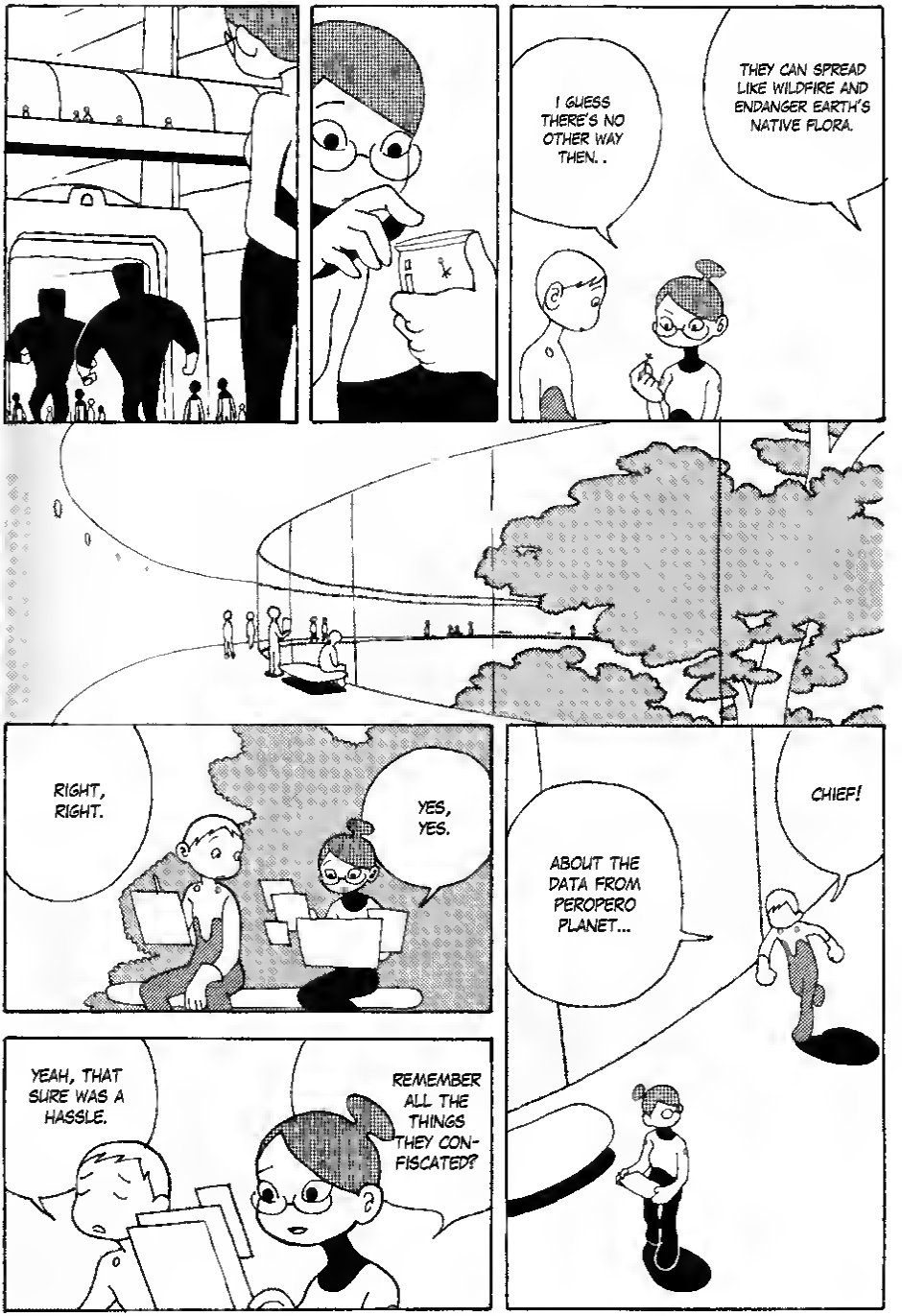

NOBODY BELIEVES IN THAT STUFFY OLD RELIGION THESE DAYS.
ARE YOU NOT A FOLLOWER OF HOPPEKE THOUGH?
HA, AS IF!

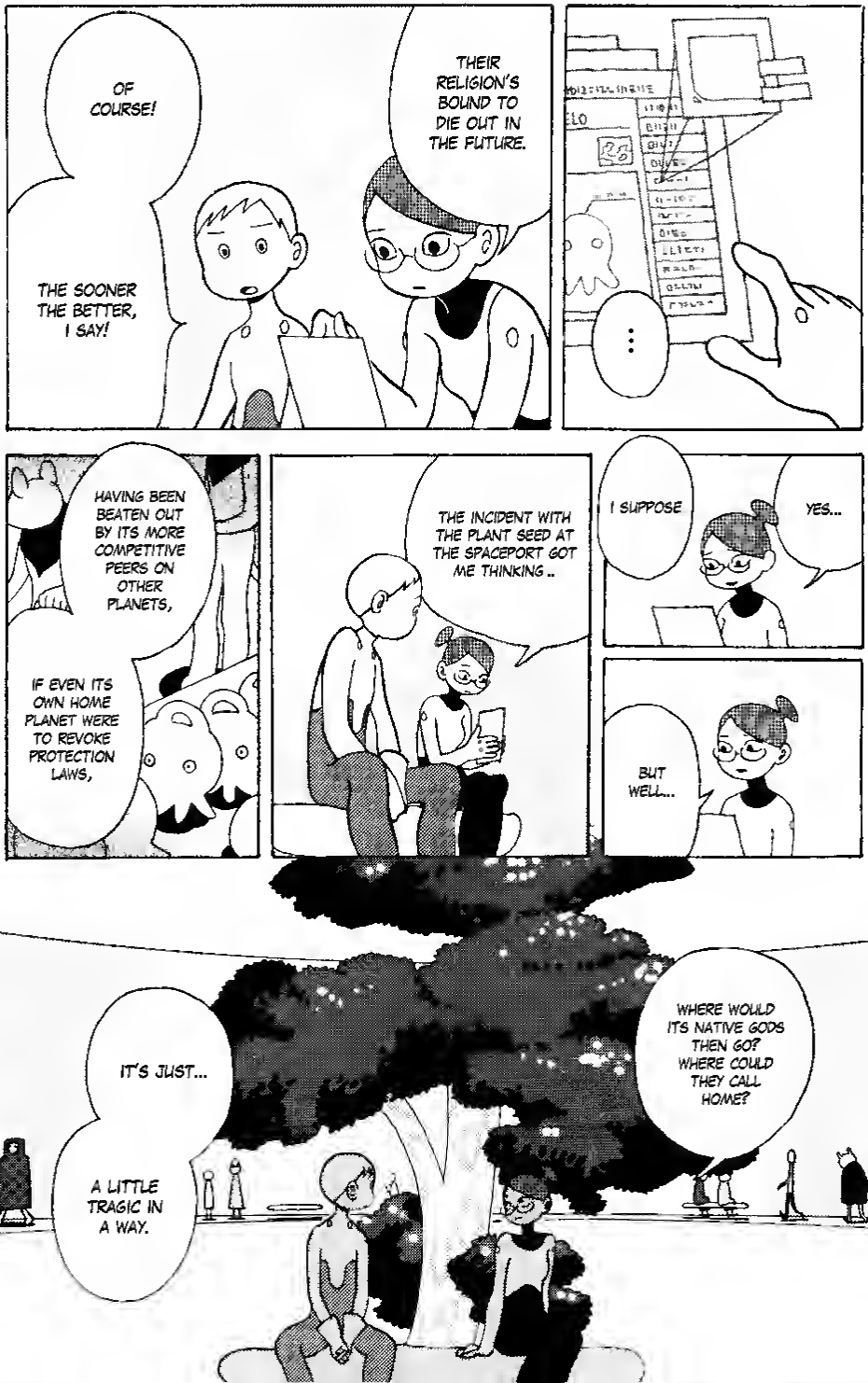

FAITH ISN'T SOMETHING THAT ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE ON OTHERS...
IT'S JUST LIKE EARTH BACK AGES AGO.
WELL THAT'S A SURPRISE

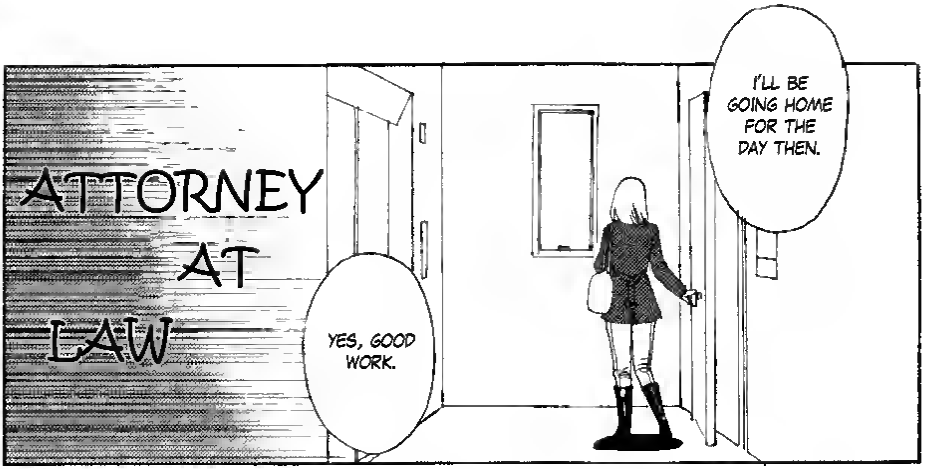
HENCE THE RESTRICTIONS.
BUT THERE'S A FEW POLITICALLY POWERFUL PEOPLE WHO CAN'T STAND THAT,


THANKS!
I REALLY HOPE YOUR PLANET'S PEOPLE WILL BE FREE TO BELIEVE IN ANY RELIGION THEY CHOOSE ONE DAY
YES...
IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLANET BUT IT SURE DOES HAVE ITS FAIR SHARE OF PROBLEMS.
I HOPE ITS PEOPLE WILL SOON COME TO RECTIFY THEIR MISTAKES.
....

WHEW, FINALLY BACK ON EARTH.
I WANT TO SLEEP ON A GOOD OL' BED.
REQUESTING IMMEDIATE BODYSEARCH.
UNAUTHORIZED ALIEN LIFEFORM DETECTED.
ALIEN LIFEFORM?
AH!
AHH,
IT MUST BE THIS.
PEROPERO PLANTS HAVE DANGEROUSLY STRONG PROLIFERATIVE CAPABILITIES
AFRAID NOT
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO KEEP IT AS A MEMENTO OF OUR TRIP?
IT MUST BE FROM PEROPERO PLANET.
THERE WAS A PLANT SEED STUCK TO YOU

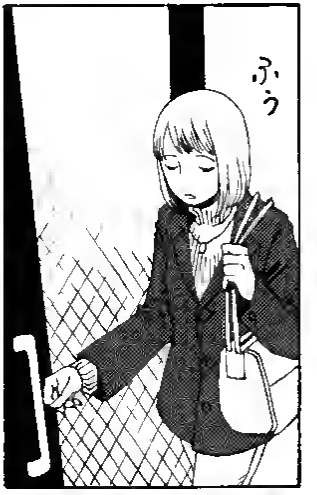

THEY CAN SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE AND ENDANGER EARTH'S NATIVE FLORA.
I GUESS THERE'S NO OTHER WAY THEN..
RIGHT, RIGHT.
YES, YES.
CHIEF!
ABOUT THE DATA FROM PEROPERO PLANET...
YEAH, THAT SURE WAS A HASSLE.
REMEMBER ALL THE THINGS THEY CONFISCATED?


THEIR RELIGION'S BOUND TO DIE OUT IN THE FUTURE.
OF COURSE!
THE SOONER THE BETTER, I SAY!
...
THE INCIDENT WITH THE PLANT SEED AT THE SPACEPORT GOT ME THINKING..
HAVING BEEN BEATEN OUT BY ITS MORE COMPETITIVE PEERS ON OTHER PLANETS,
IF EVEN ITS OWN HOME PLANET WERE TO REVOKE PROTECTION LAWS,
I SUPPOSE
YES...
BUT WELL...
WHERE WOULD ITS NATIVE GODS THEN GO? WHERE COULD THEY CALL HOME?
IT'S JUST...
A LITTLE TRAGIC IN A WAY.
-END-


ATTORNEY AT LAW
YES, GOOD WORK.
I'LL BE GOING HOME FOR THE DAY THEN.

HI! ARE YOU HEADING HOME TOO?
THAT'S MY COWORKER FROM WORK
AH,

P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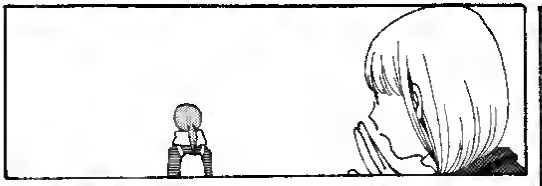
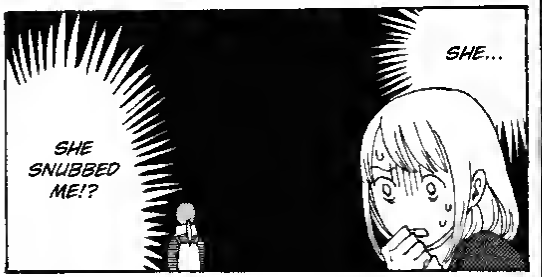
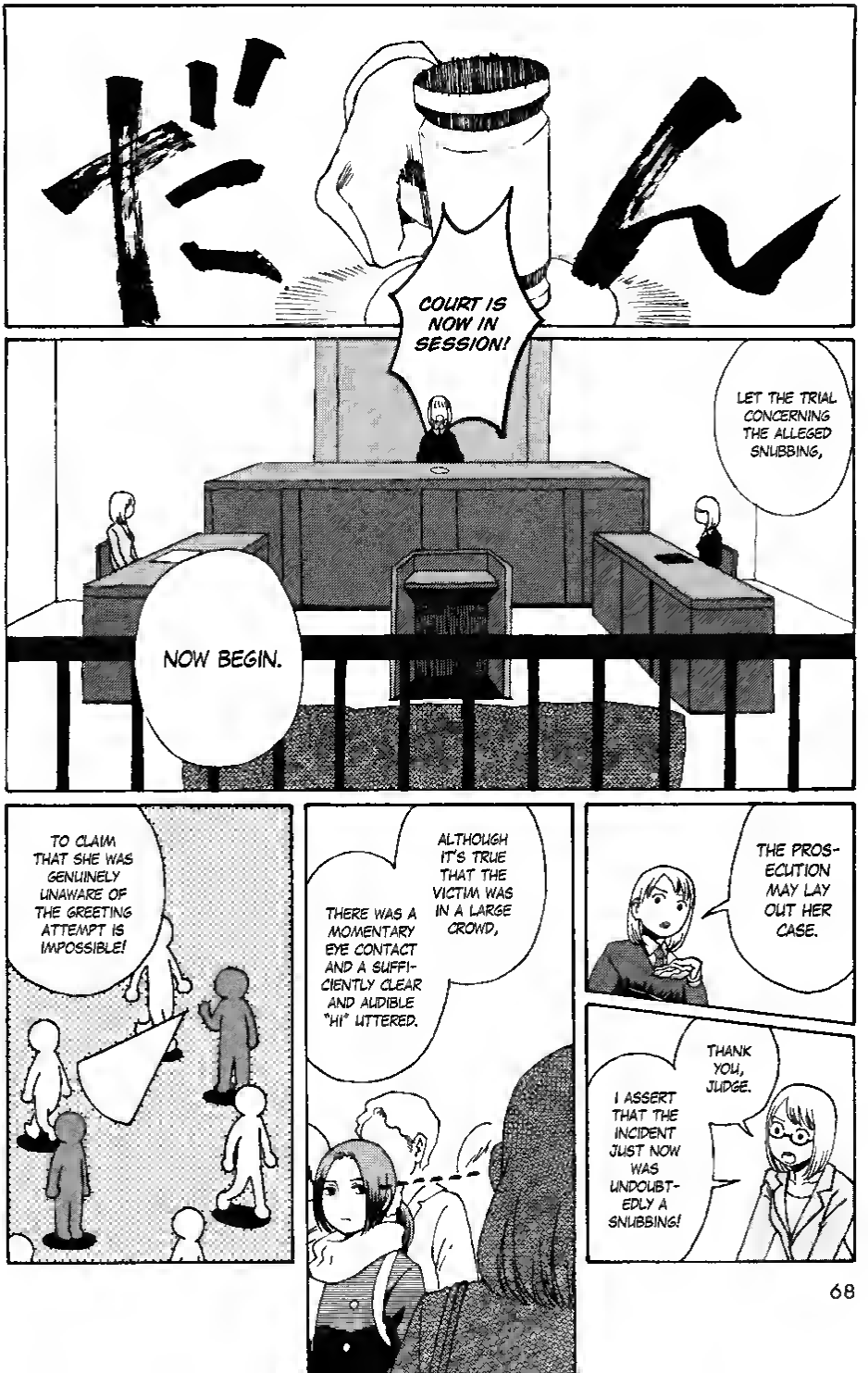
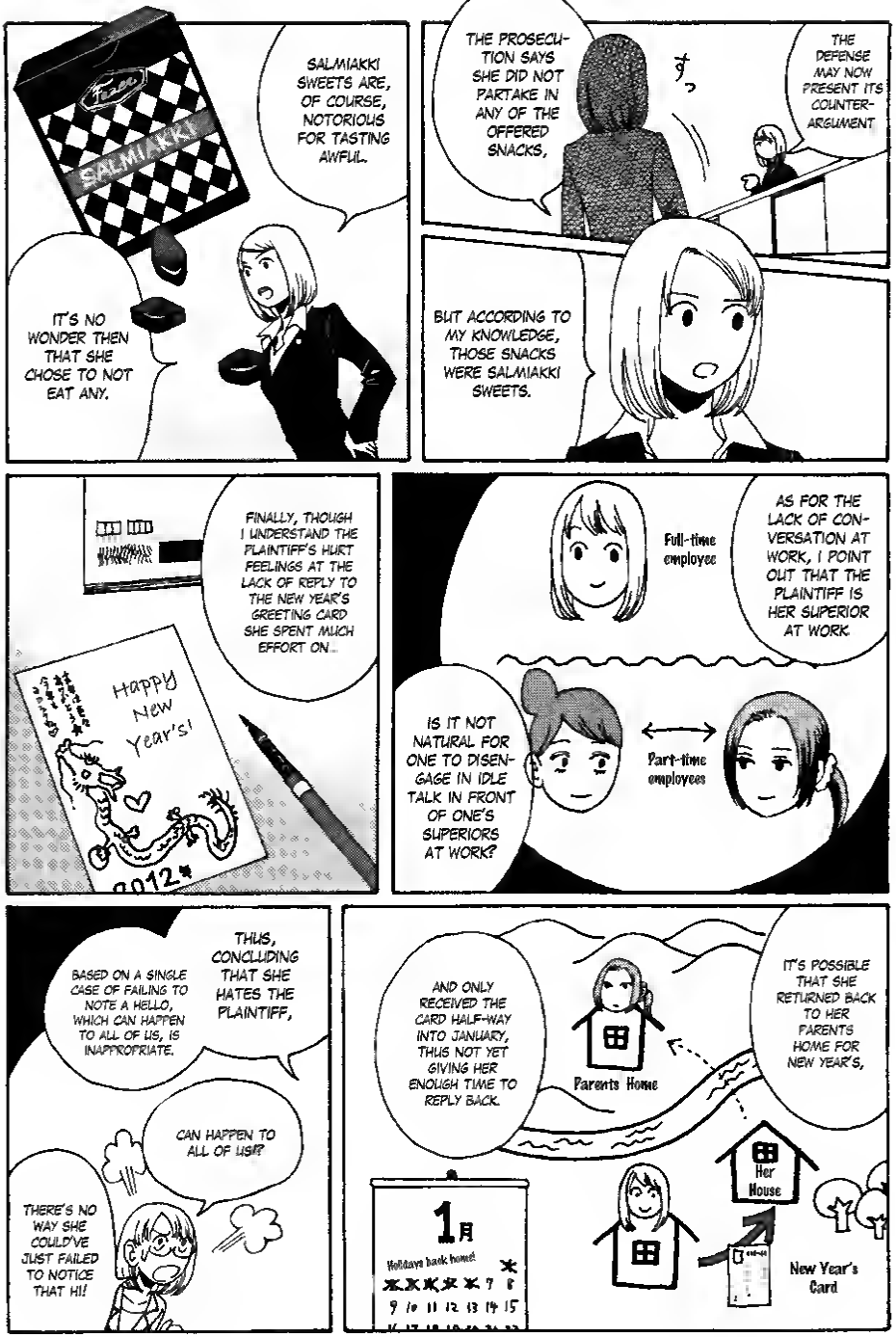
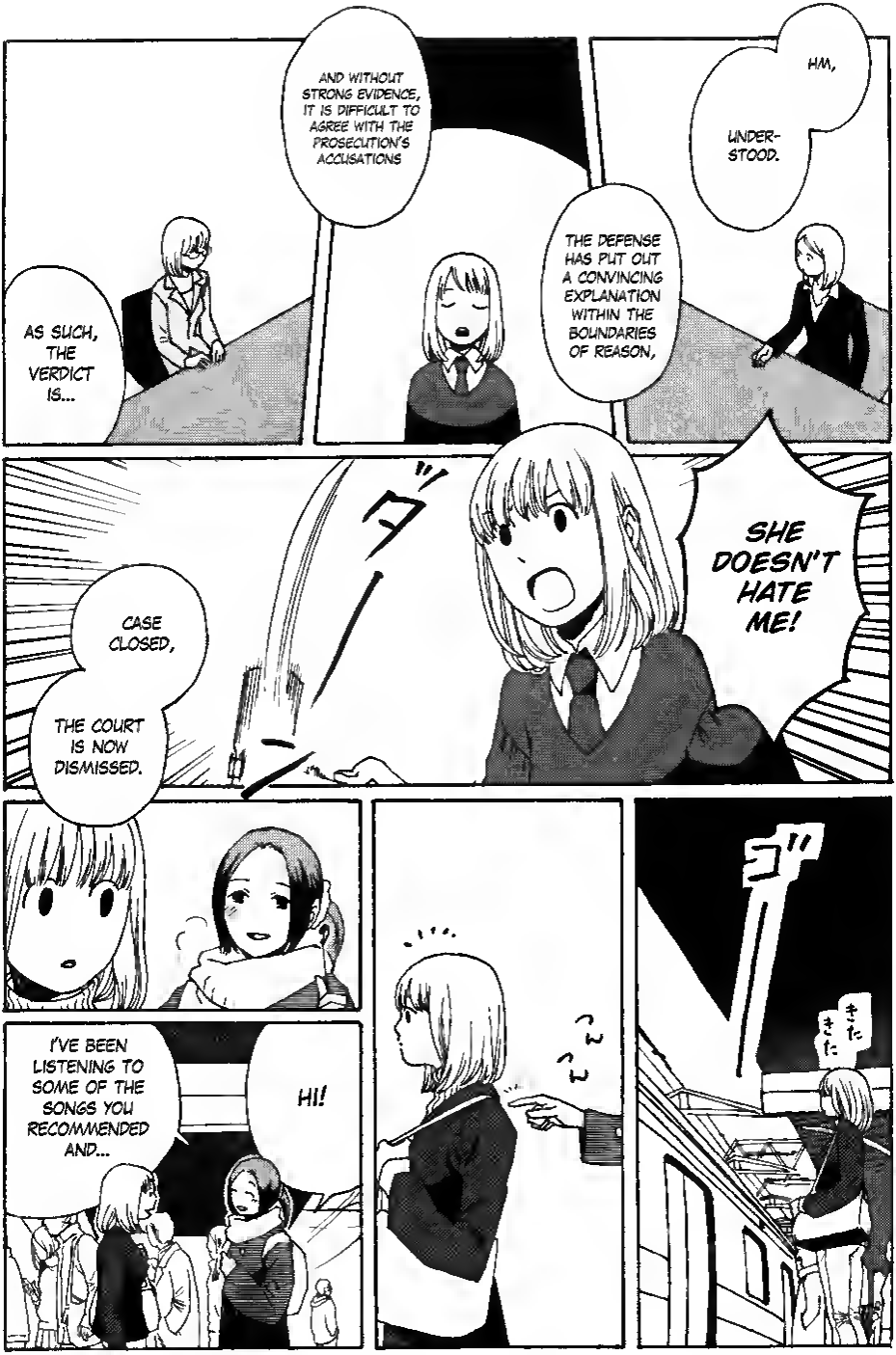



SHE...
SHE SNUBBED ME!?


だーん
COURT IS NOW IN SESSION!
LET THE TRIAL CONCERNING THE ALLEGED SNUBBING,
NOW BEGIN.
TO CLAIM THAT SHE WAS GENUINELY UNAWARE OF THE GREETING ATTEMPT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
ALTHOUGH IT'S TRUE THAT THE VICTIM WAS IN A LARGE CROWD,
THERE WAS A MOMENTARY EYE CONTACT AND A SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AND AUDIBLE "HI" UTTERED.
THE PROSECUTION MAY LAY OUT HER CASE.
THANK YOU, JUDGE.
I ASSERT THAT THE INCIDENT JUST NOW WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A SNUBBING!

Have some, have some!
FOR INSTANCE, SHE DID NOT PARTAKE IN ANY SNACKS I OFFERED TO MY COWORKERS.
AND IS THERE A PLAUSIBLE MOTIVE BY THIS ALLEGED SNUBBER?
ALTHOUGH HER MOTIVE IS UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME,
SHE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FOND OF ME.
SHE ALSO MADE NO RESPONSE TO MY NEW YEAR'S GREETING CARD.
CONSIDERING THESE INCIDENTS,
I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE HER SENTIMENTS TOWARDS ME ARE INDEED QUITE COLD!
がらっ
BUT TURNS SILENT THE MOMENT I STEP INTO THE ROOM.
ぴたっ
SHE TALKS IN A LIVELY MANNER WITH OTHERS,
ALTHOUGH TRIVIAL ON ITS OWN, WHEN TAKEN TOGETHER, THOSE CIRCUMSTANTIAL CASES CERTAINLY LEND CREDENCE TO YOUR VIEW.
I SEE.
OBJECTION, YOUR HONOUR!


SALMIAKKI
SALMIAKKI SWEETS ARE, OF COURSE, NOTORIOUS FOR TASTING AWFUL.
IT'S NO WONDER THEN THAT SHE CHOSE TO NOT EAT ANY.
THE PROSECUTION SAYS SHE DID NOT PARTAKE IN ANY OF THE OFFERED SNACKS,
THE DEFENSE MAY NOW PRESENT ITS COUNTER-ARGUMENT
BUT ACCORDING TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THOSE SNACKS WERE SALMIAKKI SWEETS.
FINALLY, THOUGH I UNDERSTAND THE PLAINTIFF'S HURT FEELINGS AT THE LACK OF REPLY TO THE NEW YEAR'S GREETING CARD SHE SPENT MUCH EFFORT ON...
Happy New Year's!
2012
Full-time employee
AS FOR THE LACK OF CONVERSATION AT WORK, I POINT OUT THAT THE PLAINTIFF IS HER SUPERIOR AT WORK.
IS IT NOT NATURAL FOR ONE TO DISENGAGE IN IDLE TALK IN FRONT OF ONE'S SUPERIORS AT WORK?
Part-time employees
THUS, CONCLUDING THAT SHE HATES THE PLAINTIFF,
BASED ON A SINGLE CASE OF FAILING TO NOTE A HELLO, WHICH CAN HAPPEN TO ALL OF US, IS INAPPROPRIATE.
CAN HAPPEN TO ALL OF US!?
THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD'VE JUST FAILED TO NOTICE THAT HI!
AND ONLY RECEIVED THE CARD HALF-WAY INTO JANUARY, THUS NOT YET GIVING HER ENOUGH TIME TO REPLY BACK.
Parents Home
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE RETURNED BACK TO HER PARENTS HOME FOR NEW YEAR'S,
1月
Holidays back home!
Her House
New Year's Card


AS SUCH, THE VERDICT IS...
AND WITHOUT STRONG EVIDENCE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO AGREE WITH THE PROSECUTION'S ACCUSATIONS
THE DEFENSE HAS PUT OUT A CONVINCING EXPLANATION WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF REASON,
HM, UNDER-STOOD.
SHE DOESN'T HATE ME!
CASE CLOSED,
THE COURT IS NOW DISMISSED.
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO SOME OF THE SONGS YOU RECOMMENDED AND...
HI!
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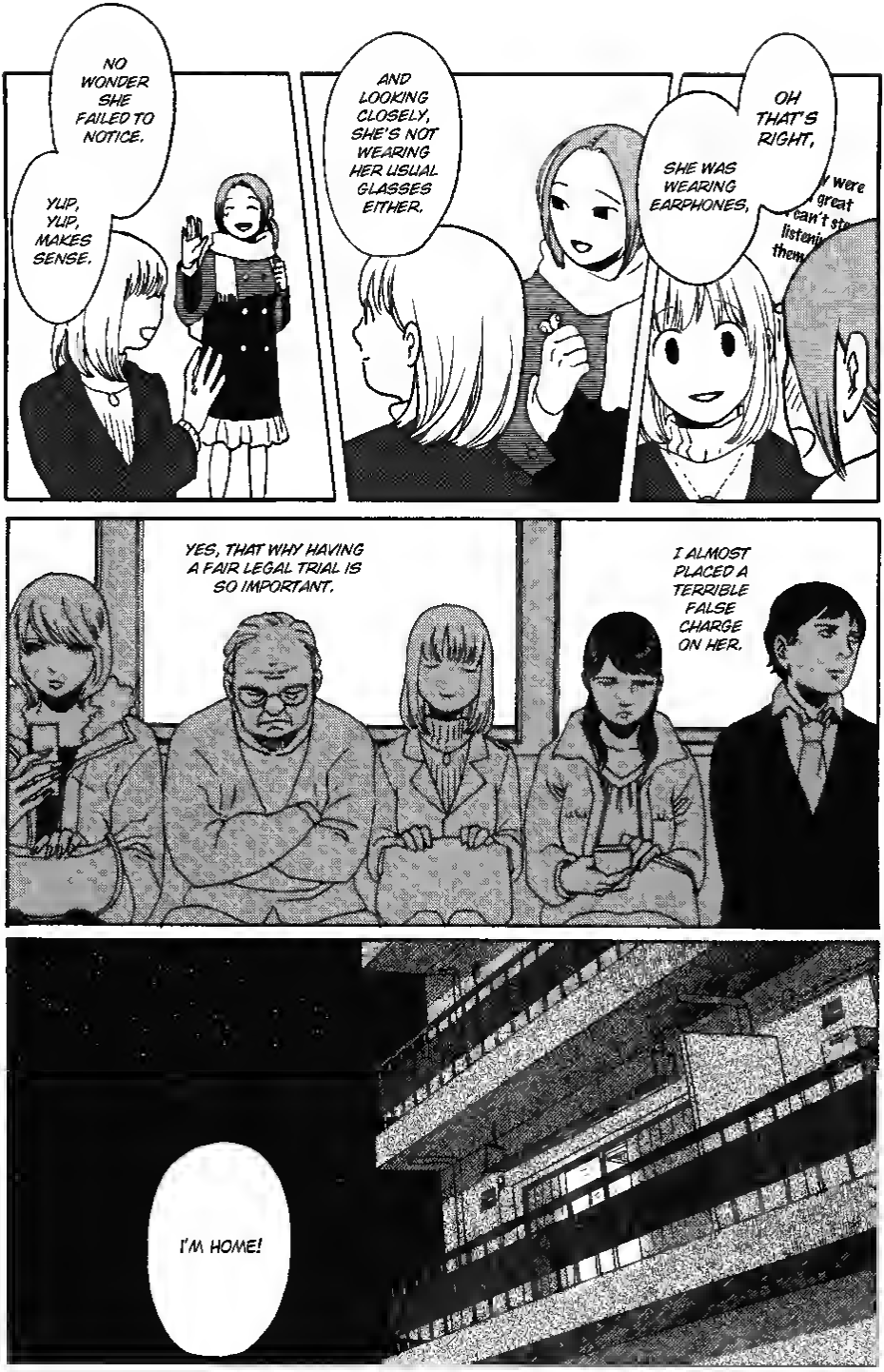
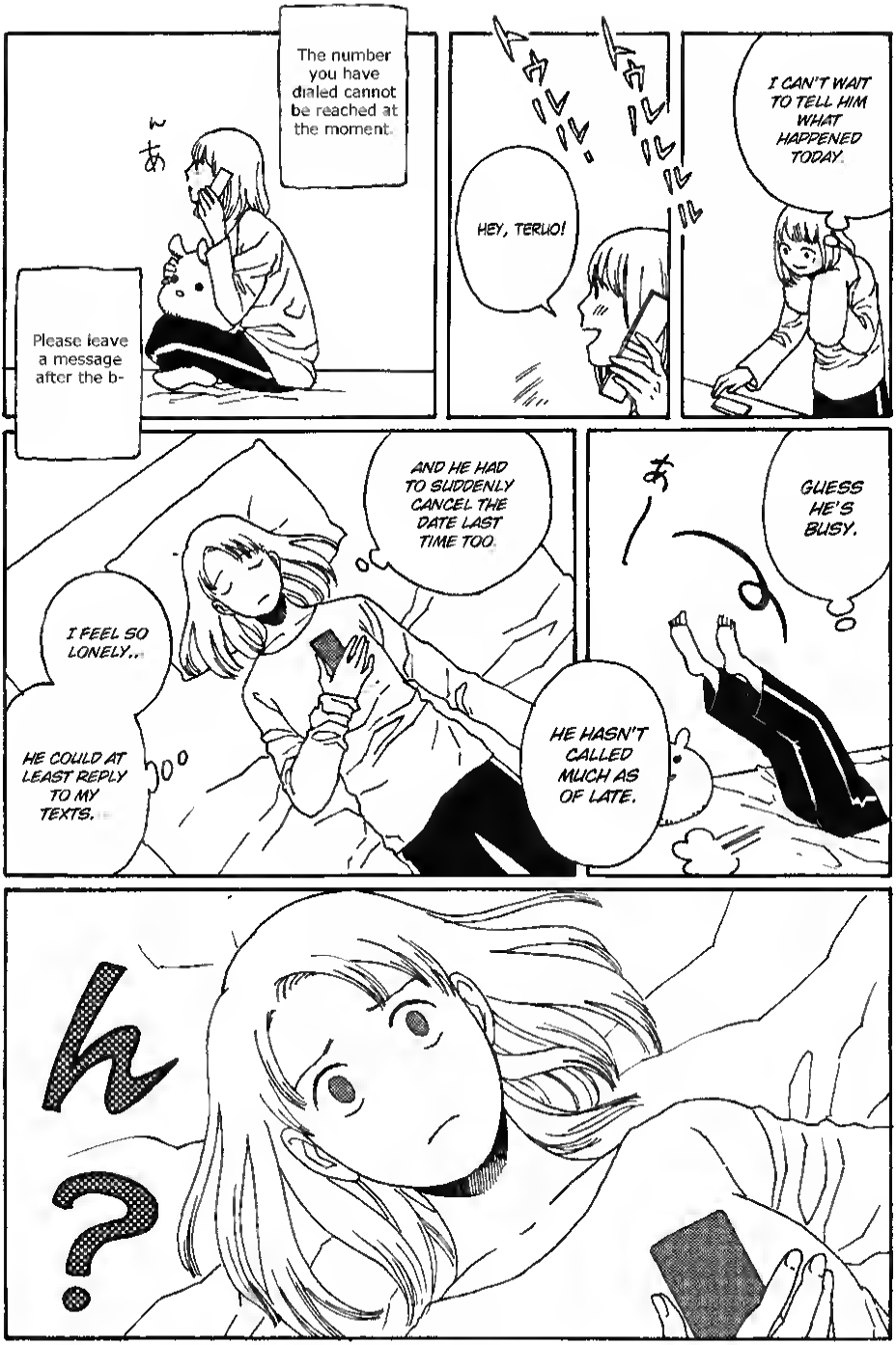
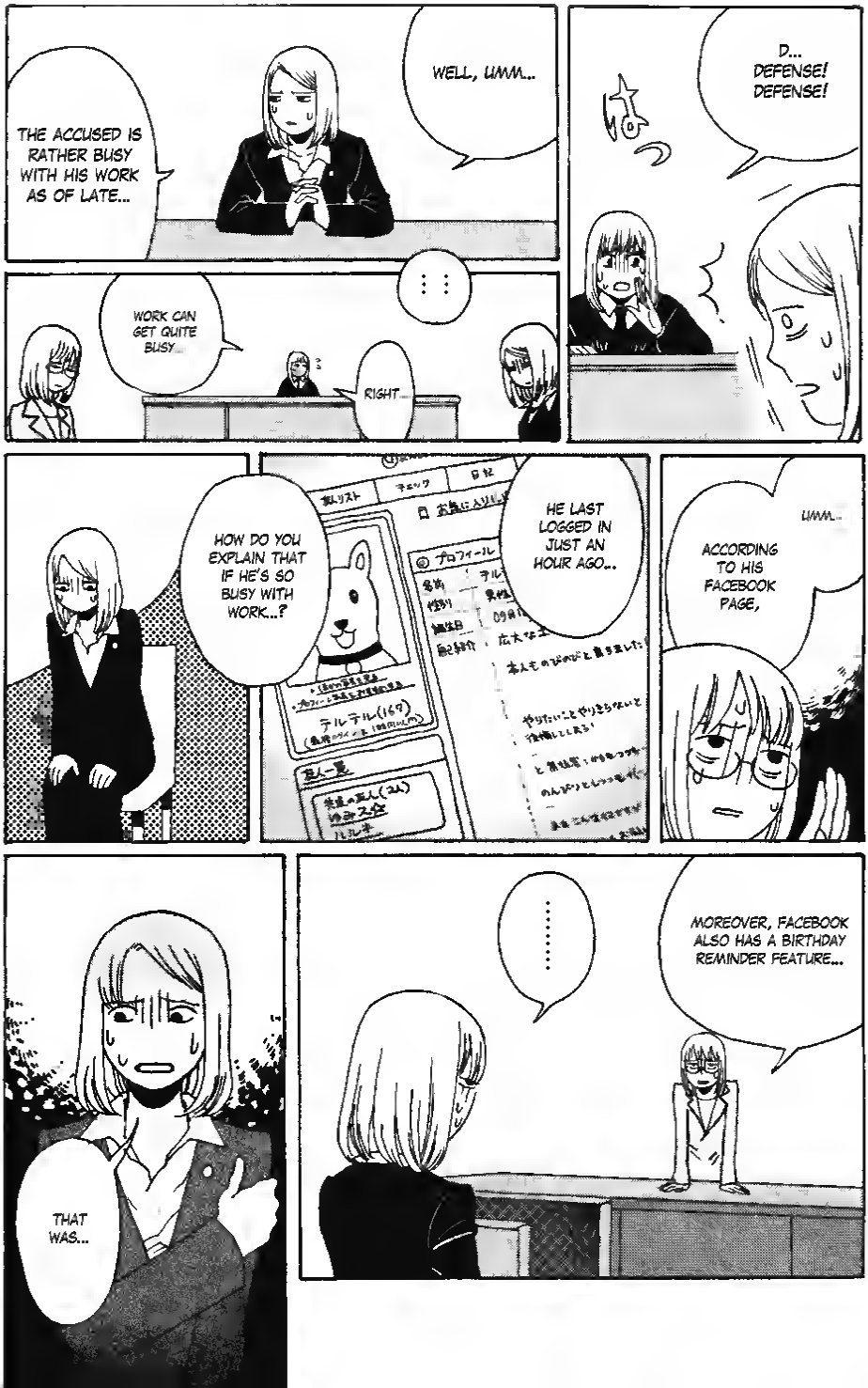
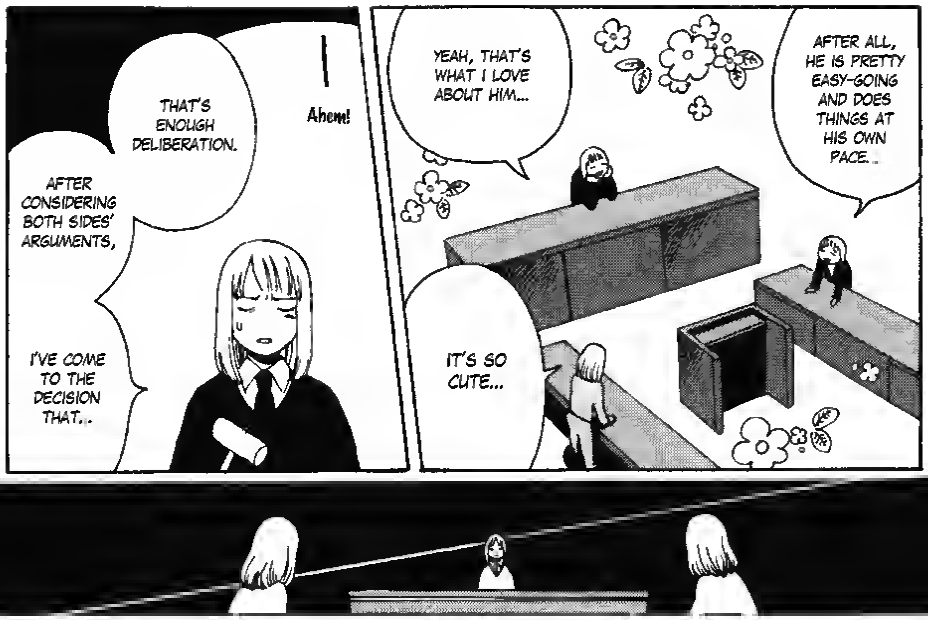

NO WONDER SHE FAILED TO NOTICE.
YUP, YUP, MAKES SENSE.
AND LOOKING CLOSELY, SHE'S NOT WEARING HER USUAL GLASSES EITHER.
OH THAT'S RIGHT,
SHE WAS WEARING EARPHONES,
YES, THAT WHY HAVING A FAIR LEGAL TRIAL IS SO IMPORTANT.
I ALMOST PLACED A TERRIBLE FALSE CHARGE ON HER.
I'M HOME!

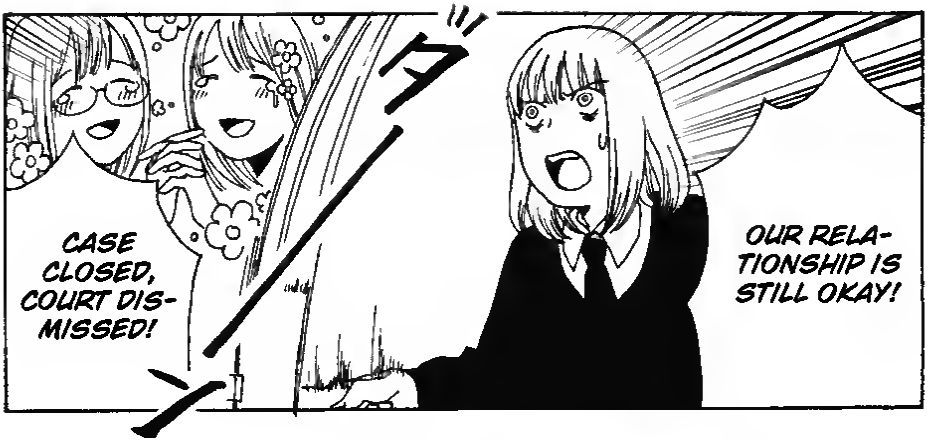

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.
HEY, TERUO!
The number you have dialed cannot be reached at the moment.
Please leave a message after the b-
GUESS HE'S BUSY.
AND HE HAD TO SUDDENLY CANCEL THE DATE LAST TIME TOO.
I FEEL SO LONELY...
HE HASN'T CALLED MUCH AS OF LATE.
HE COULD AT LEAST REPLY TO MY TEXTS.
h?

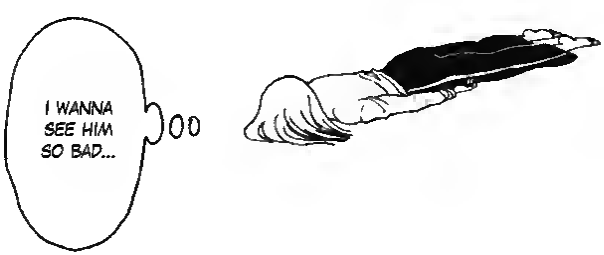
だん
COURT IS NOW IN SESSION!
LADIES,
WE ARE HERE TODAY TO JUDGE THE REASON FOR TERUO'S RECENT CONDUCT.
…
WHA-
WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU EVEN HAVE!?
WELL, I MEAN... A BOYFRIEND WHO DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER TO SEND A TEXT TO HIS GIRLFRIEND ON HER BIRTHDAY?
Umm...
TO BE BLUNT,
I THINK IT'S PRETTY CLEAR HIS LOVE HAS FADED AWAY.


WELL, UMM...
THE ACCUSED IS RATHER BUSY WITH HIS WORK AS OF LATE...
D... DEFENSE! DEFENSE!
...
WORK CAN GET QUITE BUSY...
RIGHT...
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT IF HE'S SO BUSY WITH WORK...?
HE LAST LOGGED IN JUST AN HOUR AGO...
UMM...
ACCORDING TO HIS FACEBOOK PAGE,
.....
MOREOVER, FACEBOOK ALSO HAS A BIRTHDAY REMINDER FEATURE...
THAT WAS...

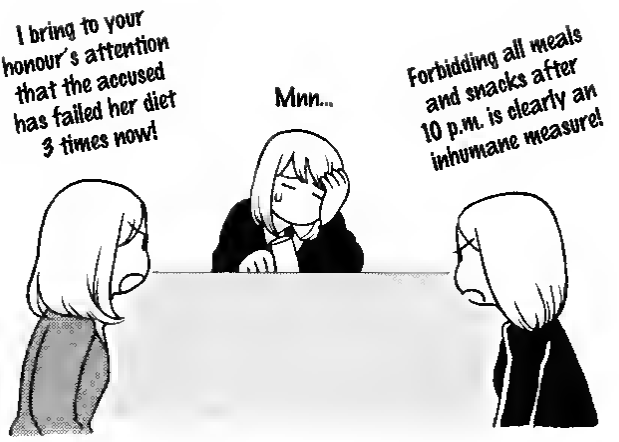
MAYBE HE USED IT FOR WORK...? HE, UMM...
YES?
C-COULD'VE NEEDED IT TO ARRANGE A PLACE AND LOCATION FOR SOME MEETING RELATED TO WORK! YES, THAT MUST BE IT!
AH! YES, THAT MAKES SENSE!
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE TIME HE FORGOT ABOUT OUR PROMISE,
AND WENT TO A DRINKING-PARTY INSTEAD!?
IT MUST'VE BEEN A SUPER IMPORTANT PARTY!
LIKE A REUNION WITH HIS OLD FRIEND!
AND JUST BECAUSE HE HASN'T TEXTED HAPPY BIRTHDAY YET,
DOESN'T ENTIRELY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE'S PLANNING SOME SORT OF SURPRISE...


Ahem!
THAT'S ENOUGH DELIBERATION.
AFTER CONSIDERING BOTH SIDES' ARGUMENTS,
I'VE COME TO THE DECISION THAT...
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT HIM...
AFTER ALL, HE IS PRETTY EASY-GOING AND DOES THINGS AT HIS OWN PACE...
IT'S SO CUTE...

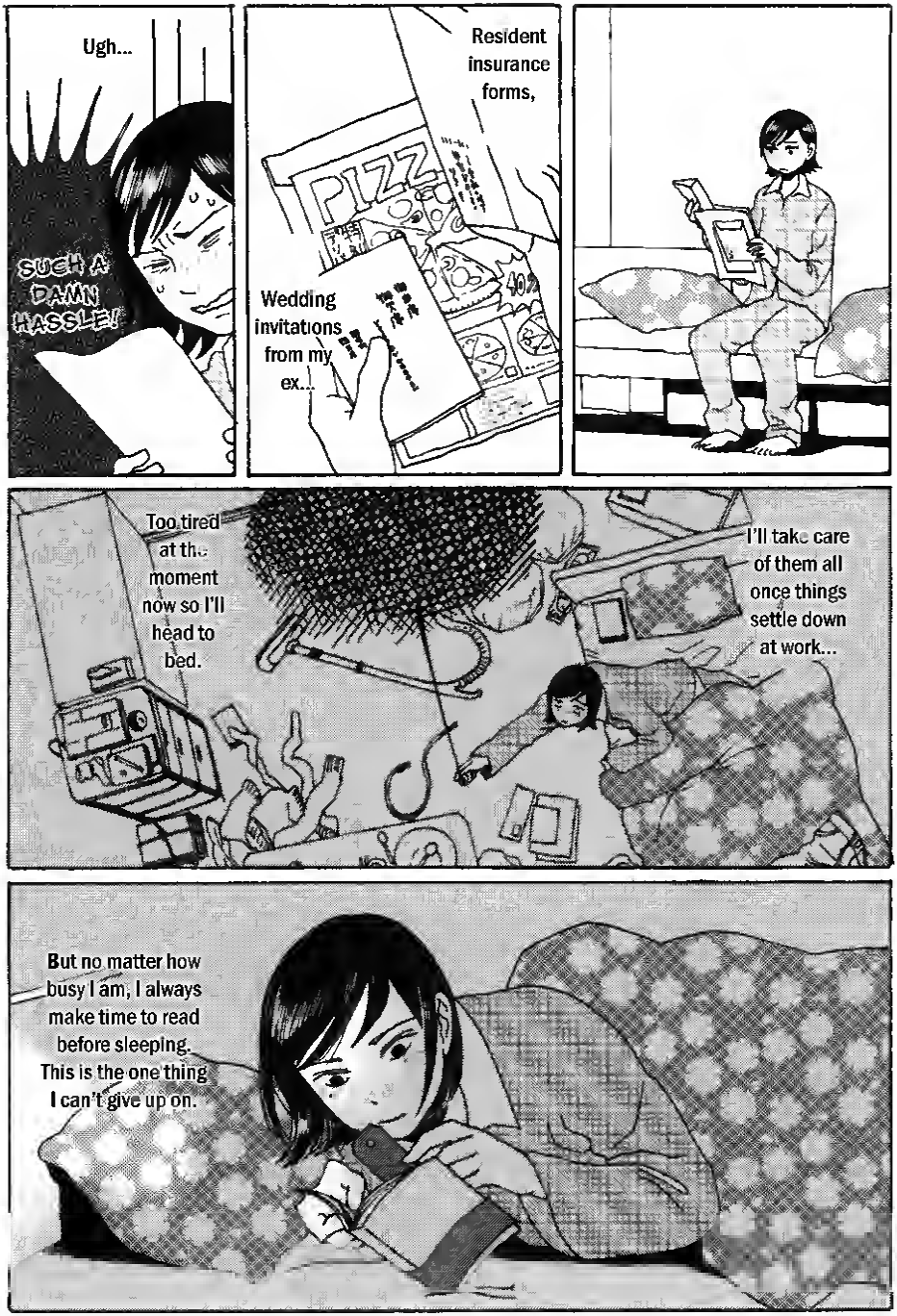

CASE CLOSED, COURT DISMISSED!
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS STILL OKAY!


I WANNA SEE HIM SO BAD...
IT WAS A LENIENT DECISION FOR MYSELF.

-END-


I bring to your honour's attention that the accused has failed her diet 3 times now!
Mnn...
Forbidding all meals and snacks after 10 p.m. is clearly an inhumane measure!

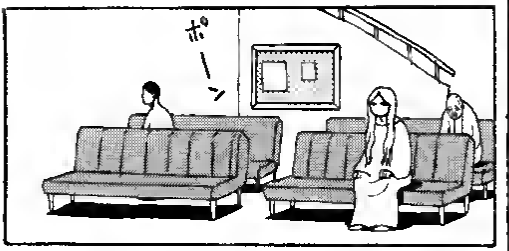
The dishes from 4 days ago are still left unwashed in the sink.
The toothbrush bristles are all worn out.
Messy room,
Piles of laundry to be done,
I'll overlook them for now until things calm down at work.
But there's no time to attend to any of these problems.


Ugh...
SUCH A DAMN HASSLE!
Resident insurance forms,
PIZZ
Wedding invitations from my ex...
Too tired at the moment now so I'll head to bed.
I'll take care of them all once things settle down at work...
But no matter how busy I am, I always make time to read before sleeping. This is the one thing I can't give up on.

I call this novel-diving.
And before long, the story mixes into my dreams, and it's as if I've lived into the book.
I chase the sentences while battling away the creeping urge for sleep,
日の朝、やく、ふた
は城を出でこそと
ム川を迂回し国境の
ばの森へ向かな
道中、ふたりは
んど一言も言
交わしませ
たが、不
の満た
YOU MUST PASS THROUGH THE FOREST BEFORE THE SUN SETS!
I CAN ONLY ESCORT YOU UP TO HERE, PRINCESS.
in the tense pauses between his lines,
...said the young prince.
i sense the prince trying his hardest to restrain his love for me

...said princess Tessia with a beautiful smile upon her face.
THANK YOU.
I WILL BE FINE,
YOU SHOULD WORRY MORE FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR OWN KINGDOM, NOT MINE.
PRINCESS
ドドド

AHH! THE BRISTLES OF HIS SWORD ARE FAR TOO WORN OUT!
IF ONLY I'D KNOWN.
HE HAS NO HOPE OF WINNING WITH IT!
I SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT HIM A NEW ONE AT THE NEARBY CONVENIENCE STORE DESPITE THEIR SLIGHTLY HIGHER PRICES!
GAHAHAHA! THE PRINCESS IS MINE!
VILE BANDIT! YOU SHALL NOT PASS!
M-MY HORSE IS BOGGED DOWN BY ALL THESE DIRTY LAUNDRY STREWN ACROSS THE GROUND!
UGH-
RUN AS FAR AS YOU CAN, PRINCESS!
THAT'S RIGHT! MAYBE I CAN USE THE DIRTY LAUNDRY AS ARMOUR BY WRAPPING IT AROUND ME!
PRINCESS!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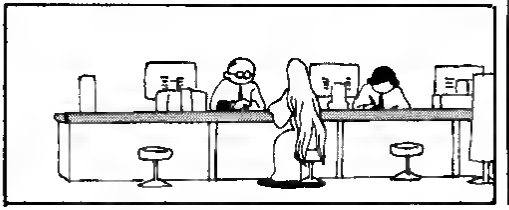
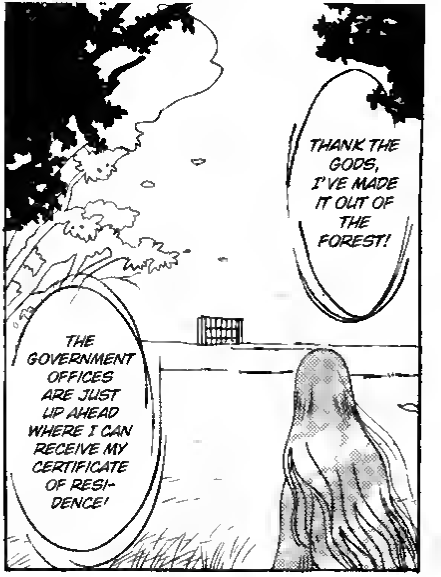
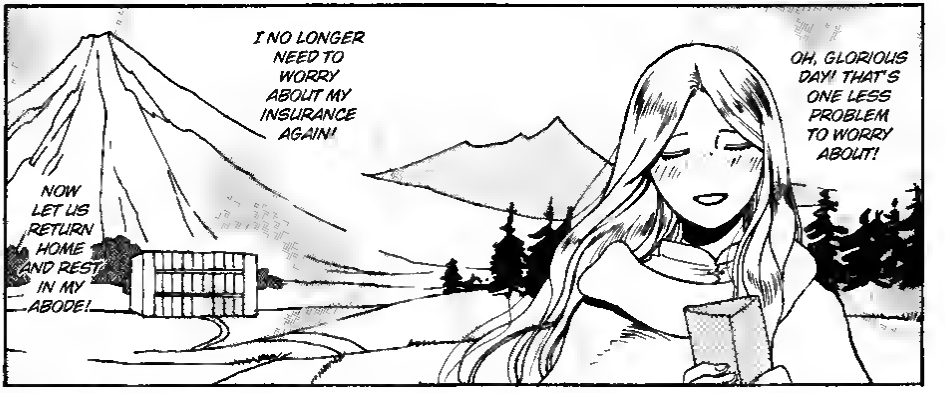
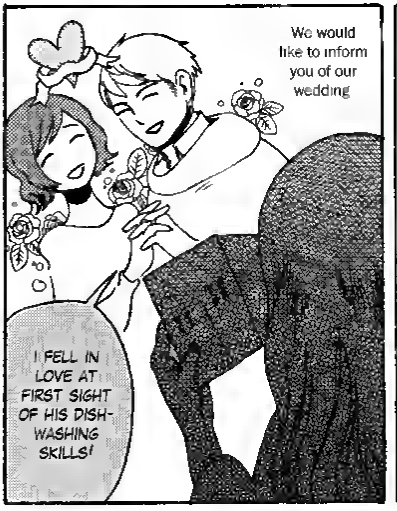
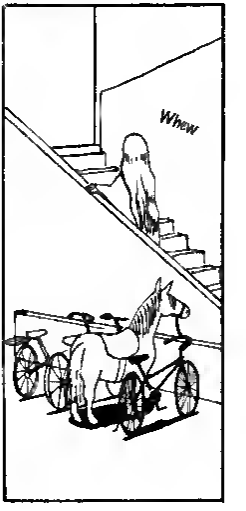


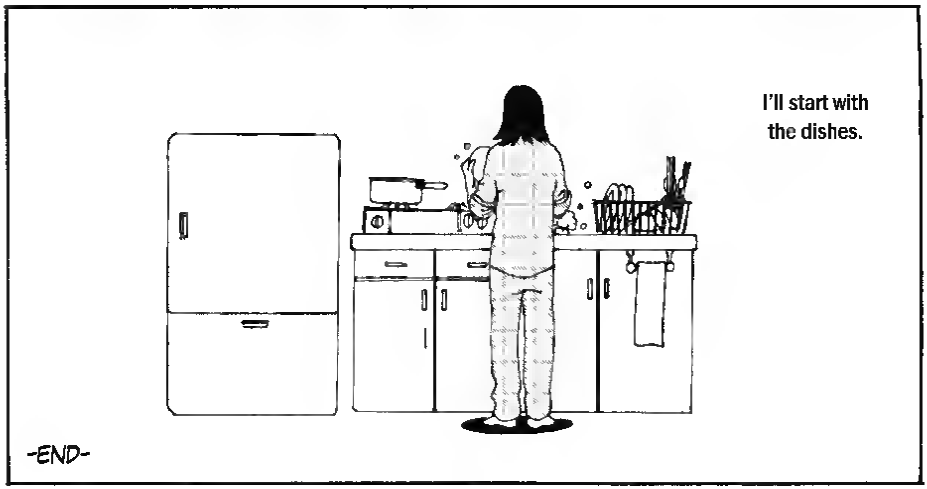

THANK THE GODS, I'VE MADE IT OUT OF THE FOREST!
THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE JUST UP AHEAD WHERE I CAN RECEIVE MY CERTIFICATE OF RESI-DENCE!


I NO LONGER NEED TO WORRY ABOUT MY INSURANCE AGAIN!
OH, GLORIOUS DAY! THAT'S ONE LESS PROBLEM TO WORRY ABOUT!
NOW LET US RETURN HOME AND REST IN MY ABODE!

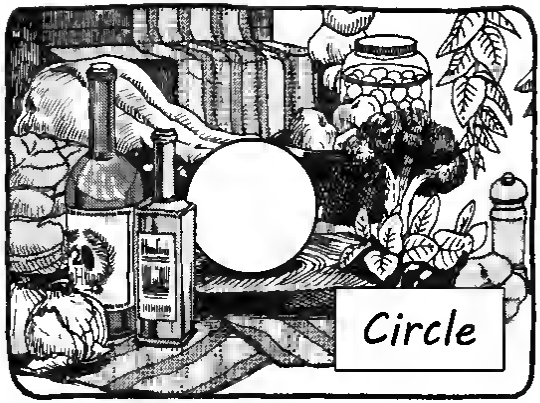

We would like to inform you of our wedding
I FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT OF HIS DISH-WASHING SKILLS!

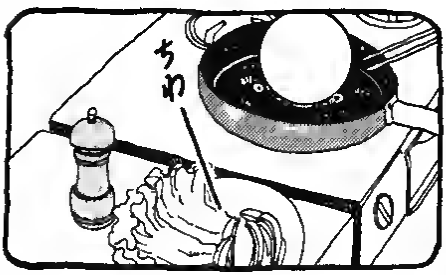

Whew

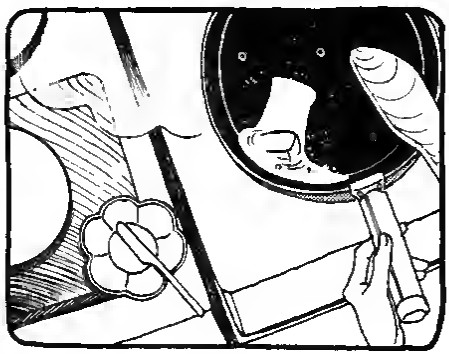
...

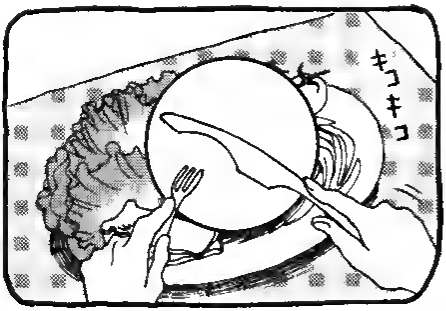

I'll start with the dishes.
-END-

Eating Symbols





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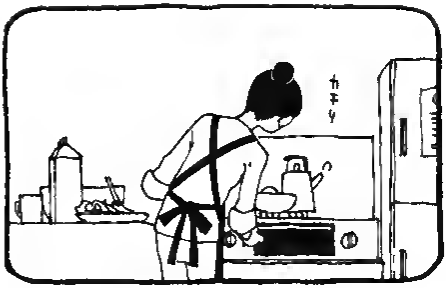
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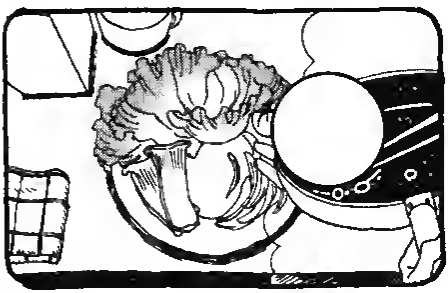
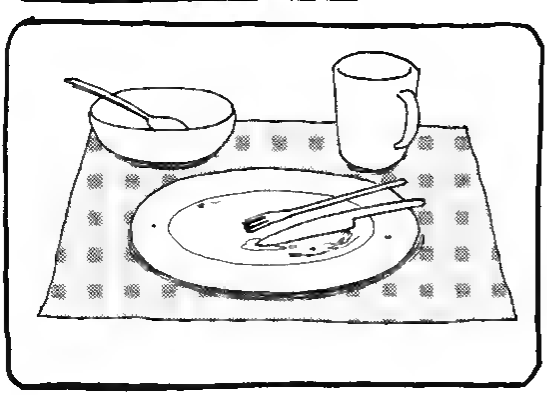
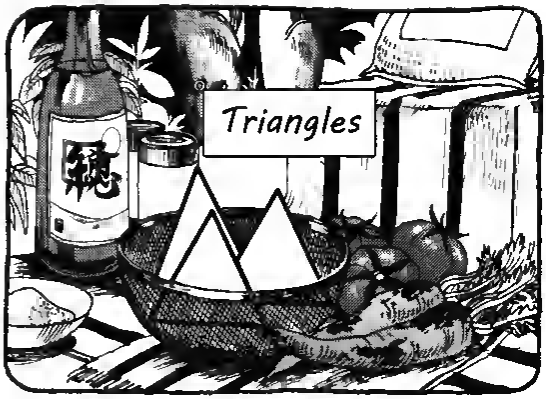
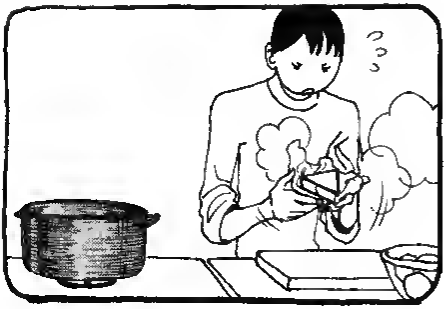
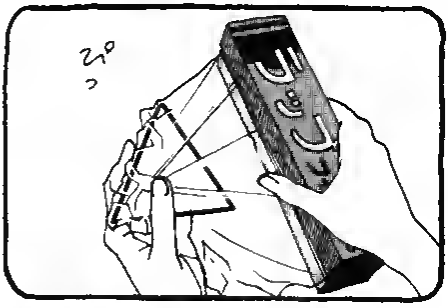
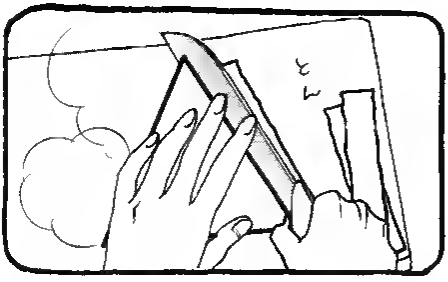


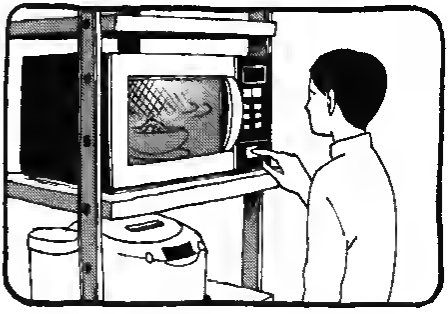


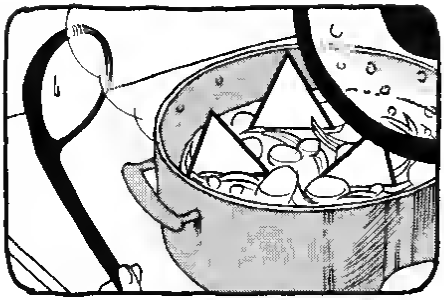

Triangles

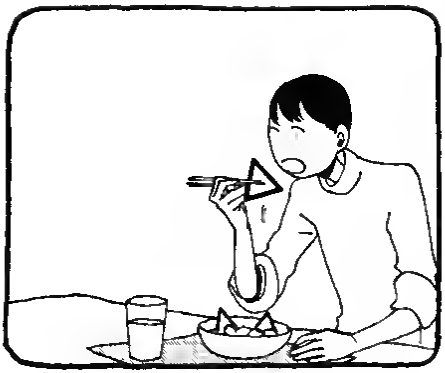


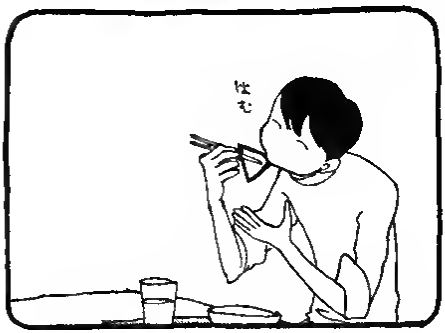








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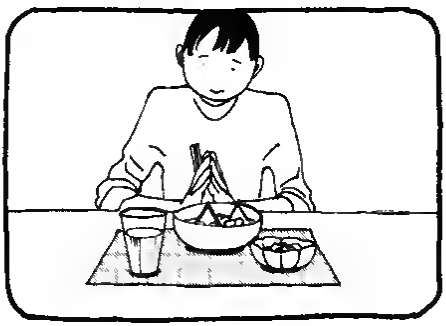
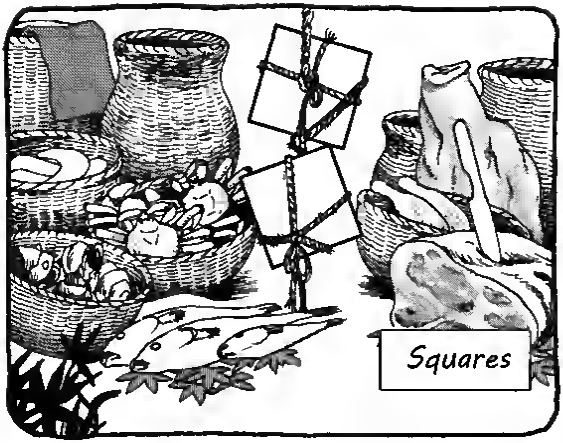
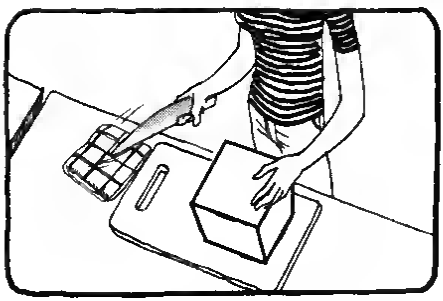
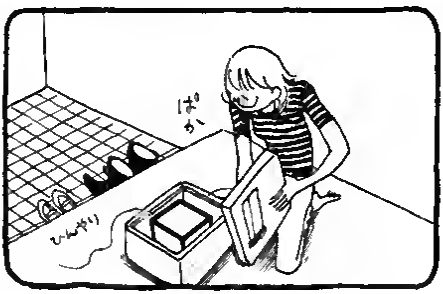



Squares

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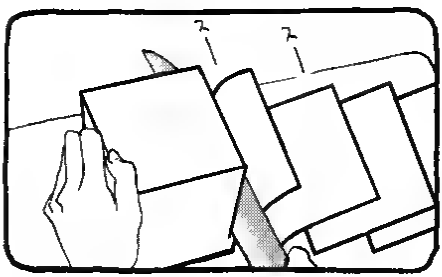

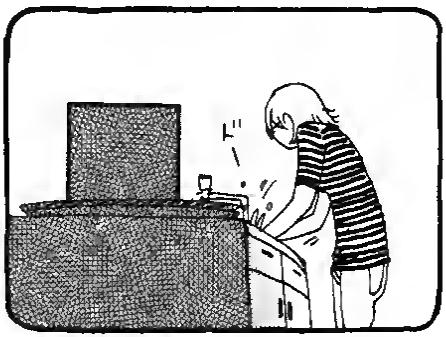

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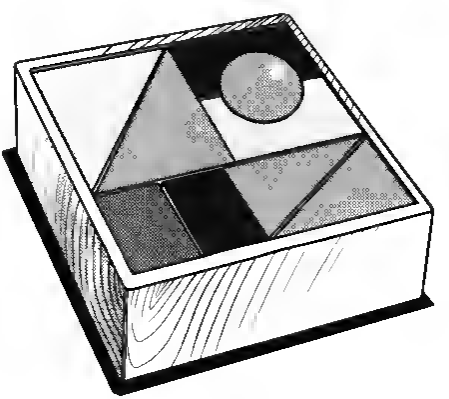
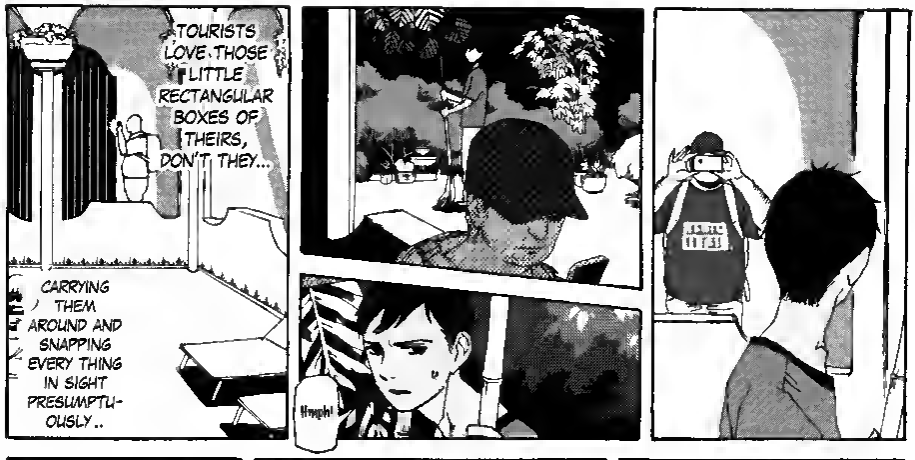
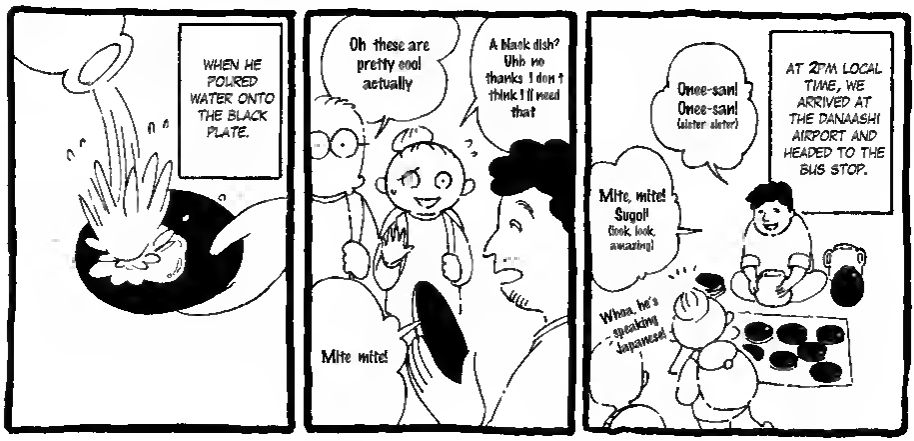
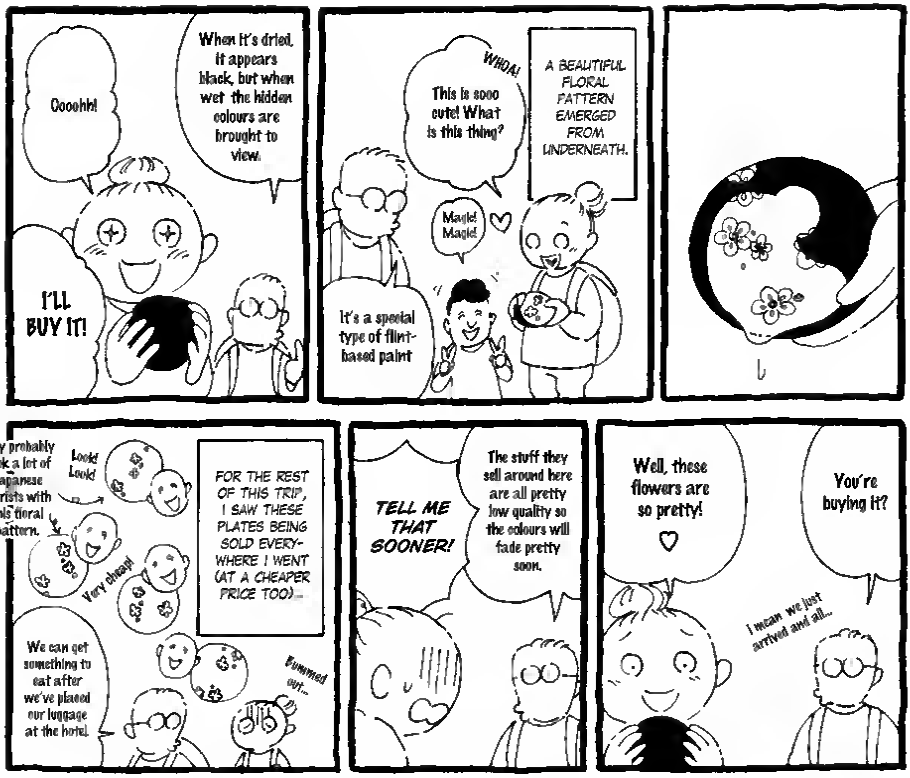


Eguchi Miyoko's
Travelogue
訪問記
Towa
I'M BACK FROM MY TRAVEL!
Eh..it's fine. You can just work on the plane.
You know I actually still have work left over..
AND SO, I RUSHED OFF INTO A 3 DAYS AND 2 NIGHTS TRIP OVERSEAS
I worked on my manuscript on the flight to Towa.
And so with my editor fast asleep right next to me.
WHAT!? WHERE ARE WE FLYING TO!?
Okay bring your passport and come to the airport then.
I'll buy you a meal.
Are you free next weekend?
IT ALL STARTED WITH A SUDDEN CALL FROM MY EDITOR.
Woohoo!
I'M FREE, I'M FREE!

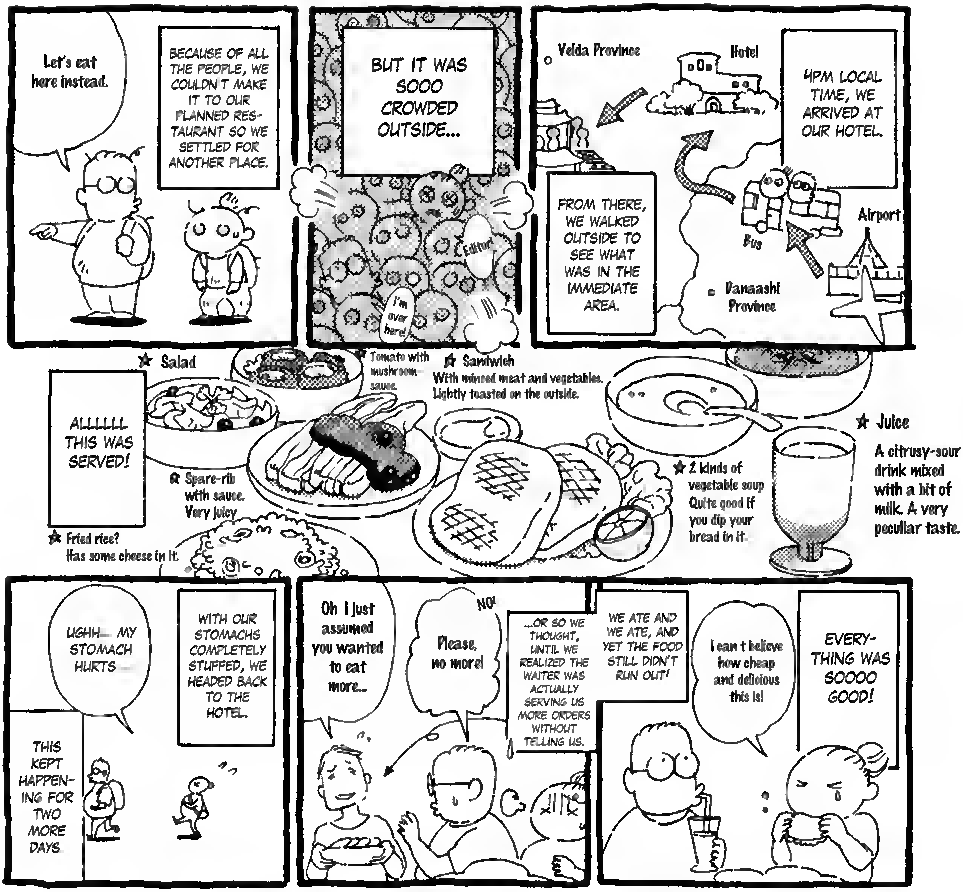

TOURISTS LOVE THOSE LITTLE RECTANGULAR BOXES OF THEIRS, DON'T THEY...
CARRYING THEM AROUND AND SNAPPING EVERY THING IN SIGHT PRESUMPTUOUSLY..
Hnghh!

THESE ARE RICH TOURISTS,
SO TREAT THEM COURTEOUSLY, Y'HEAR!?
YES, SIR..
ARE YOU DONE CLEANING YET?
ALMOST.
THE GUESTS WILL BE HERE SHORTLY
FINISH UP QUICKLY
HEY!
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT TAKING PICTURES OF THIS DIRTY COUNTRY?
I'LL BET IT'S JUST SOMETHING FOR THEM TO LAUGH OVER WITH THEIR FRIENDS BACK HOME THAT PISSES ME OFF

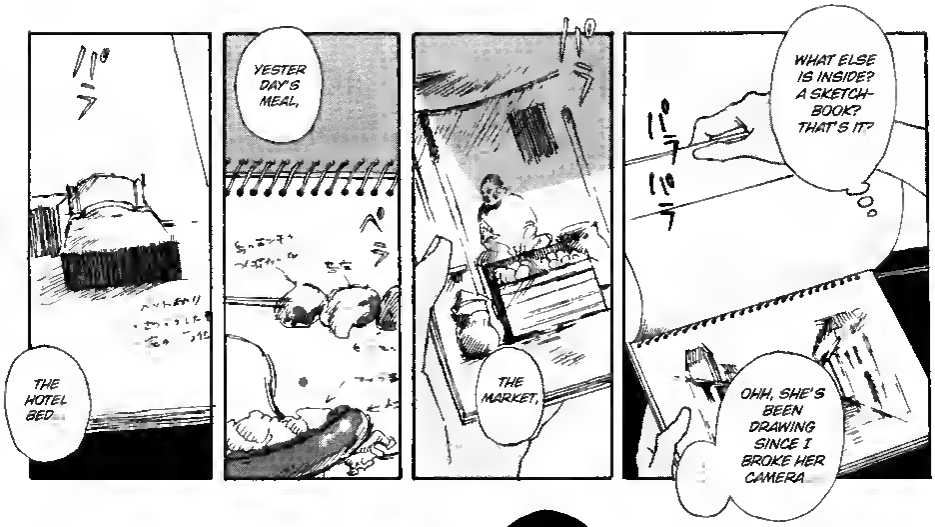

WHEN HE POURED WATER ONTO THE BLACK PLATE.
Oh these are pretty cool actually
A black dish? Uhh no thanks I don't think I'll need that
Mite mite!
Onee-san! Onee-san! (sister sister)
Mite, mite! Sugoi! (look, look, amazing)
Whoa, he's speaking Japanese!
AT 2PM LOCAL TIME, WE ARRIVED AT THE DANAASHI AIRPORT AND HEADED TO THE BUS STOP.


Ooooh!!
When it's dried, it appears black, but when wet the hidden colours are brought to view.
I'LL BUY IT!
WHOA!
This is sooo cute! What is this thing?
A BEAUTIFUL FLORAL PATTERN EMERGED FROM UNDERNEATH.
Magic! Magic!
It's a special type of flint-based paint
They probably book a lot of Japanese tourists with this floral pattern.
Look! Look!
Very cheap!
FOR THE REST OF THIS TRIP, I SAW THESE PLATES BEING SOLD EVERY-WHERE I WENT (AT A CHEAPER PRICE TOO)...
We can get something to eat after we've placed our luggage at the hotel.
Bummed out...
TELL ME THAT SOONER!
The stuff they sell around here are all pretty low quality so the colours will fade pretty soon.
Well, these flowers are so pretty!
You're buying it?
I mean we just arrived and all...
GUESTS.
THERE THEY ARE TAKING PICTURES AGAIN... DO THEY THINK THEY'RE AT A ZOO OR SOME-THING?
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.

AGHH!
メシャ
I'LL CARRY IT...
ぴゃっ
SERVES YOU RIGHT...
I DON'T WANT YOU NEAR THE GUESTS EVER AGAIN!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR THE GUESTS, YOU LITTLE SHITHEAD!
IF ONLY I HAD MONEY...
IF I HAD MONEY TOO,
I'D BE THE ONE STANDING UP AND LAUGHING...
DAMN YOU ALL...
DAMN IT...

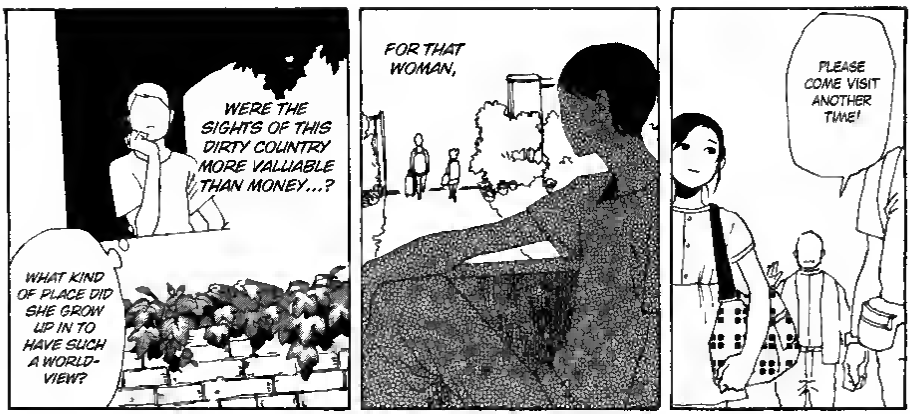

Let's eat here instead.
BECAUSE OF ALL THE PEOPLE, WE COULDN'T MAKE IT TO OUR PLANNED RESTAURANT SO WE SETTLED FOR ANOTHER PLACE.
BUT IT WAS SOOO CROWDED OUTSIDE...
Editor
I'm over here!
Velda Province
Hotel
4PM LOCAL TIME, WE ARRIVED AT OUR HOTEL.
FROM THERE, WE WALKED OUTSIDE TO SEE WHAT WAS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA.
Airport
Bus
Yamaashi Province
Salad
Tomato with mushroom sauce.
Sandwich
With minced meat and vegetables. Lightly toasted on the outside.
ALLLLLL THIS WAS SERVED!
Spare-rib with sauce. Very juicy
Fried rice? Has some cheese in it.
2 kinds of vegetable soup Quite good if you dip your bread in it.
Juice
A citrusy-sour drink mixed with a bit of milk. A very peculiar taste.
UGHH... MY STOMACH HURTS...
WITH OUR STOMACHS COMPLETELY STUFFED, WE HEADED BACK TO THE HOTEL.
THIS KEPT HAPPENING FOR TWO MORE DAYS.
Oh I just assumed you wanted to eat more...
NO!
Please, no more!
...OR SO WE THOUGHT, UNTIL WE REALIZED THE WAITER WAS ACTUALLY SERVING US MORE ORDERS WITHOUT TELLING US.
WE ATE AND WE ATE, AND YET THE FOOD STILL DIDN'T RUN OUT!
I can't believe how cheap and delicious this is!
EVERY-THING WAS SOOOO GOOD!
THEY WENT OUT FOR DINNER...
IF IT'S ANYTHING LIKE YESTER-DAY, THEY PROBABLY WON'T BE RETURNING FOR A WHILE...

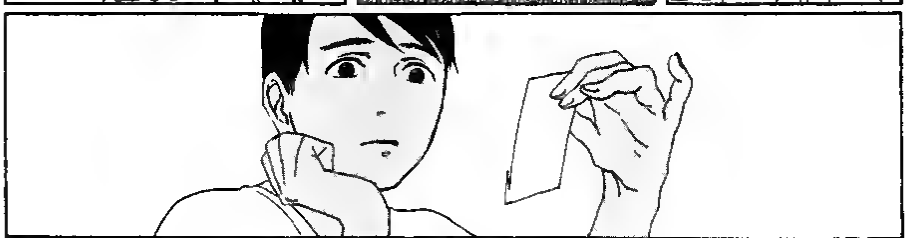
THEY PROBABLY TOOK THEIR WALLETS WITH THEM BUT—
THE SAFE—!
OH CRAP!
ガチ
HUH!?
THERE'S A WALLET RIGHT ON TOP OF THE SAFE!
THEN WHAT'S IN THE SAFE ?
BUT YOU CAN BUY THIS JUNK ANYWHERE ...
Huh...
BLACK PLATES?
カッ!
WHAT'S INSIDE —?


THE HOTEL BED...
YESTER DAY'S MEAL,
THE MARKET,
WHAT ELSE IS INSIDE? A SKETCH-BOOK? THAT'S IT?
OHH, SHE'S BEEN DRAWING SINCE I BROKE HER CAMERA

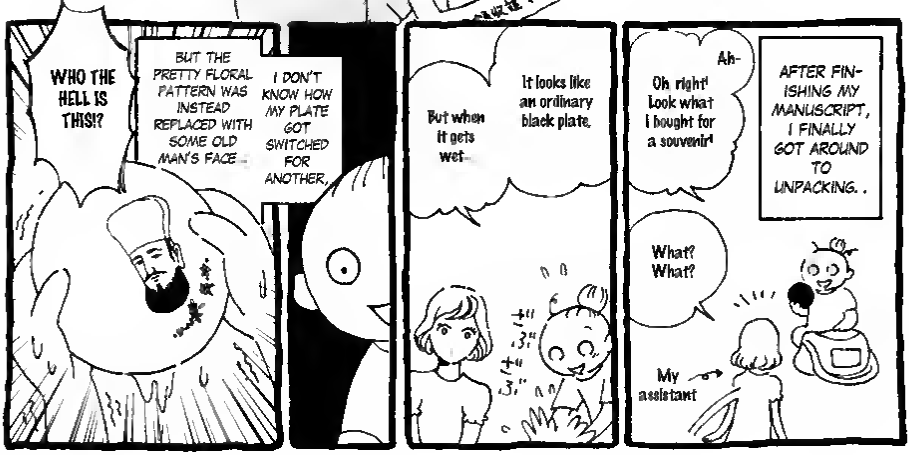
Sketch Book

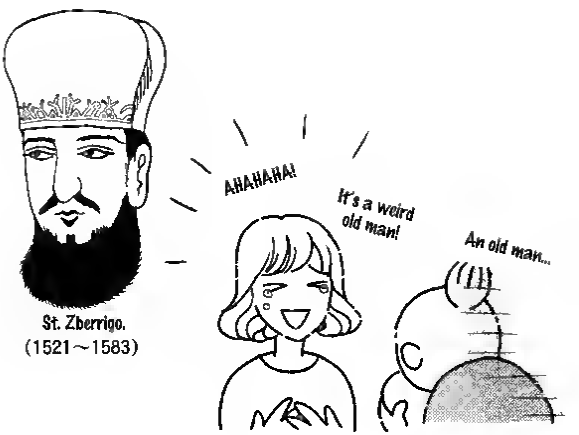
OAHHH! I can't believe I didn't see that!
It was to celebrate the birth of a saint
Oh is that so...
Oh, that was because of the festival. Did you go see?
HE TAUGHT US ALL THE TOURIST SPOTS AND SHOPS TO VISIT.
It was really crowded out yesterday
HAS A VERY FRIENDLY SMILE (BUT SCARY WHEN MAD)
Loves to drink.
HOTEL OWNER
The large eyed attendant that we met on our first day at the hotel.
HUFFING AND PUFFING, I RETURNED HOME AT LAST...
WHAT!?
I'm using my saved up paid-leave days to extend my stay here.
I guess we'll part ways here then.
So you're going home, Eguchi?
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THE ENJOYABLE TRIP CAME TO AN END.
Yeah... I do have to finish and hand in that manu-script...

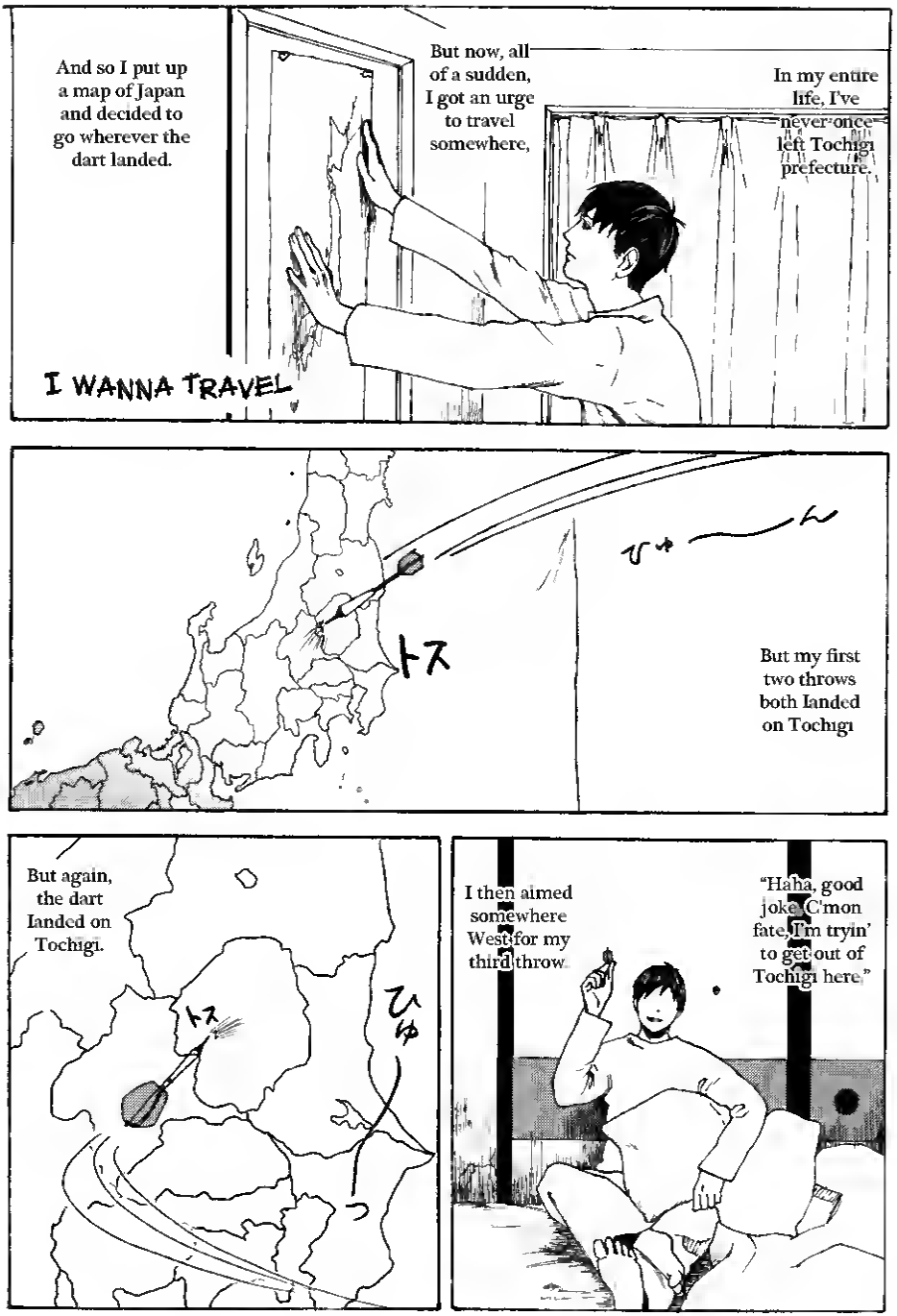

WERE THE SIGHTS OF THIS DIRTY COUNTRY MORE VALUABLE THAN MONEY...?
WHAT KIND OF PLACE DID SHE GROW UP IN TO HAVE SUCH A WORLD-VIEW?
FOR THAT WOMAN,
PLEASE COME VISIT ANOTHER TIME!



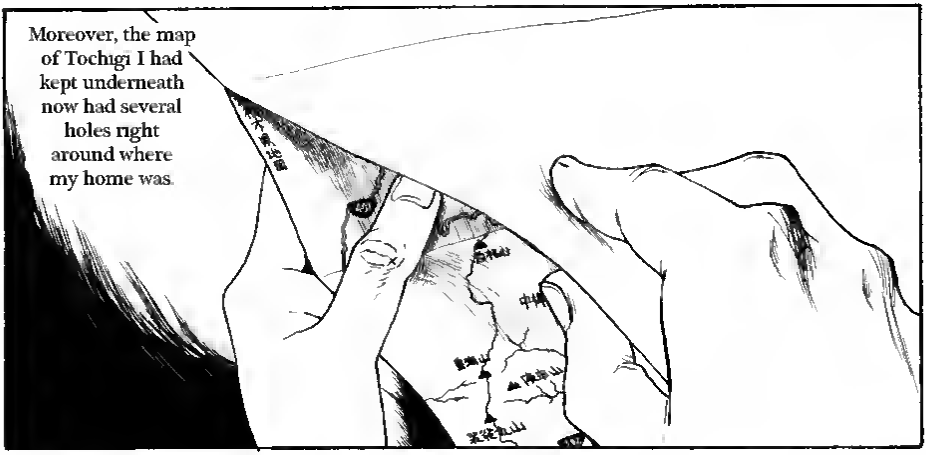
I WISH I COULD GO THERE ONE DAY...


WHO THE HELL IS THIS!?
BUT THE PRETTY FLORAL PATTERN WAS INSTEAD REPLACED WITH SOME OLD MAN'S FACE...
I DON'T KNOW HOW MY PLATE GOT SWITCHED FOR ANOTHER.
But when it gets wet...
It looks like an ordinary black plate.
Ah-
Oh right! Look what I bought for a souvenir!
AFTER FINISHING MY MANUSCRIPT, I FINALLY GOT AROUND TO UNPACKING..
What? What?
My assistant


St. Zberrigo.
(1521～1583)
AHAHAHA!
It's a weird old man!
An old man...

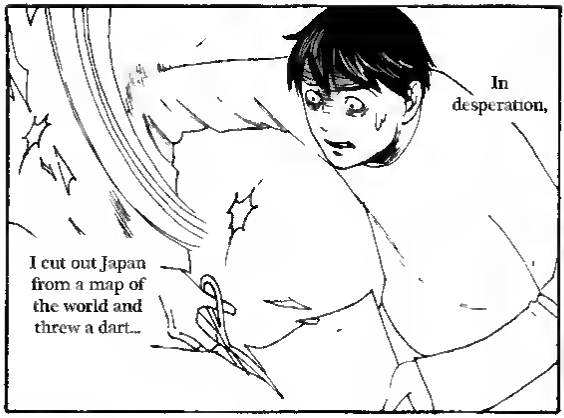

And so I put up a map of Japan and decided to go wherever the dart landed.
But now, all of a sudden, I got an urge to travel somewhere,
In my entire life, I've never once left Tochigi prefecture.
I WANNA TRAVEL
ひゅーん
トス
But my first two throws both landed on Tochigi
But again, the dart landed on Tochigi.
トス
ひゅ
I then aimed somewhere West for my third throw.
"Haha, good joke. C'mon fate, I'm tryin' to get out of Tochigi here."

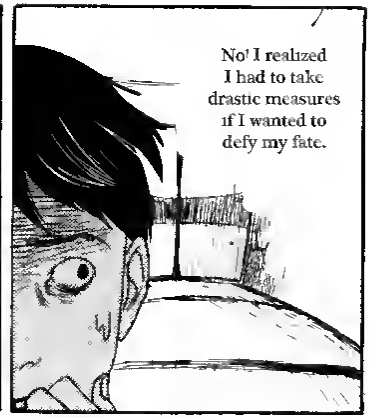
Whether I aimed North, East, South, or West, the dart would swerve in the most unnatural manner to land on Tochigi.
A chill ran down my back.

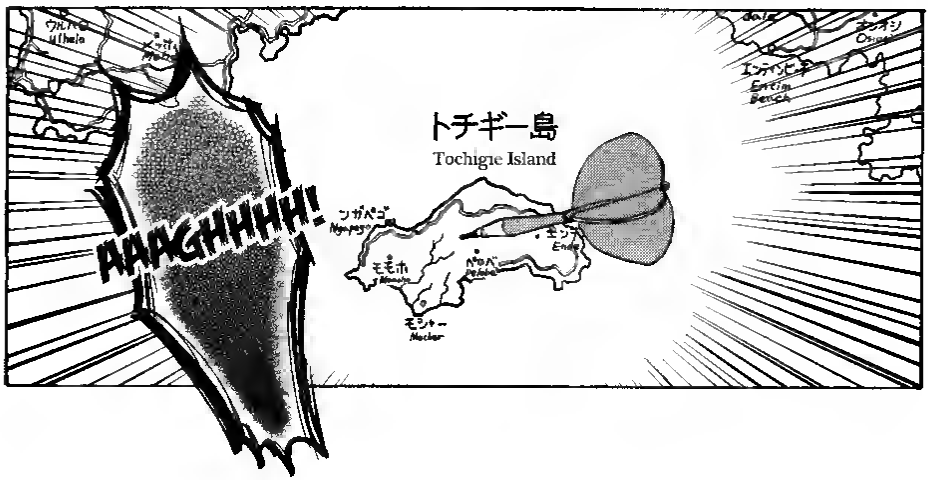

Moreover, the map of Tochigi I had kept underneath now had several holes right around where my home was.

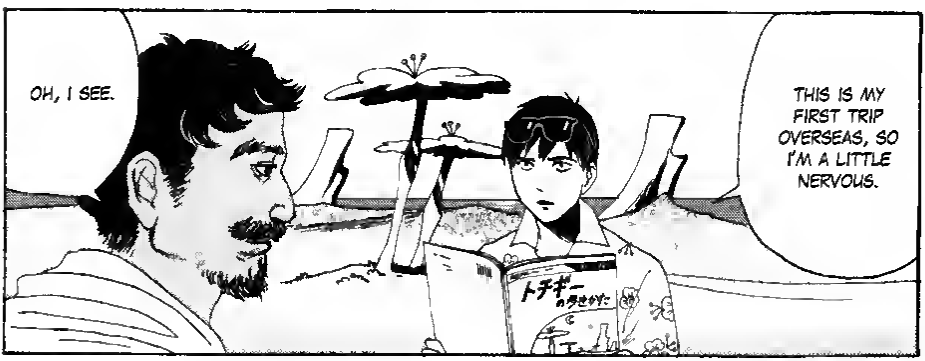
Had fate doomed me to an existence here in my home for the rest of my life..?
Paranoia turned to deep dread.

AGHH!
Trying my luck on a spinning world globe didn't change things either. The dart continued to land on Tochigi

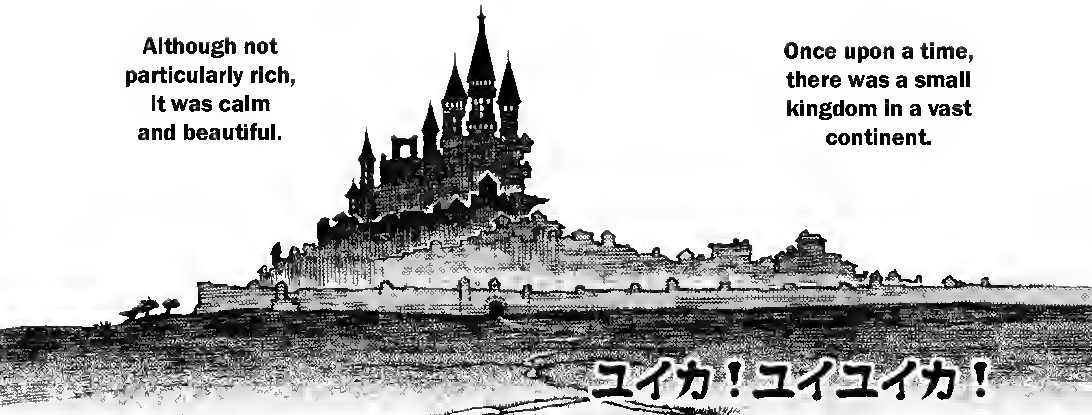

In desperation,
I cut out Japan from a map of the world and threw a dart...


No! I realized I had to take drastic measures if I wanted to defy my fate.

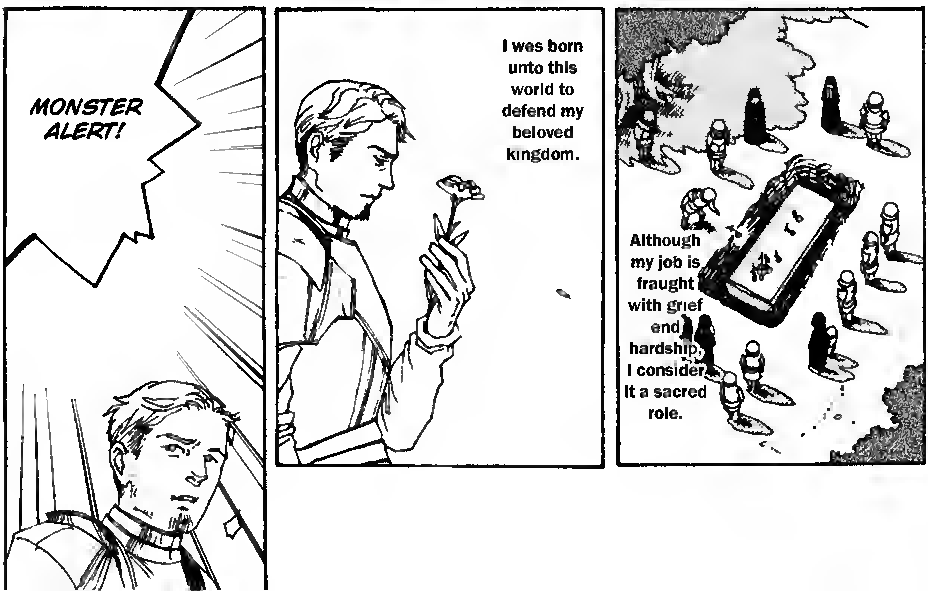

AAAGHHHH!
トチギー島
Tochigie Island

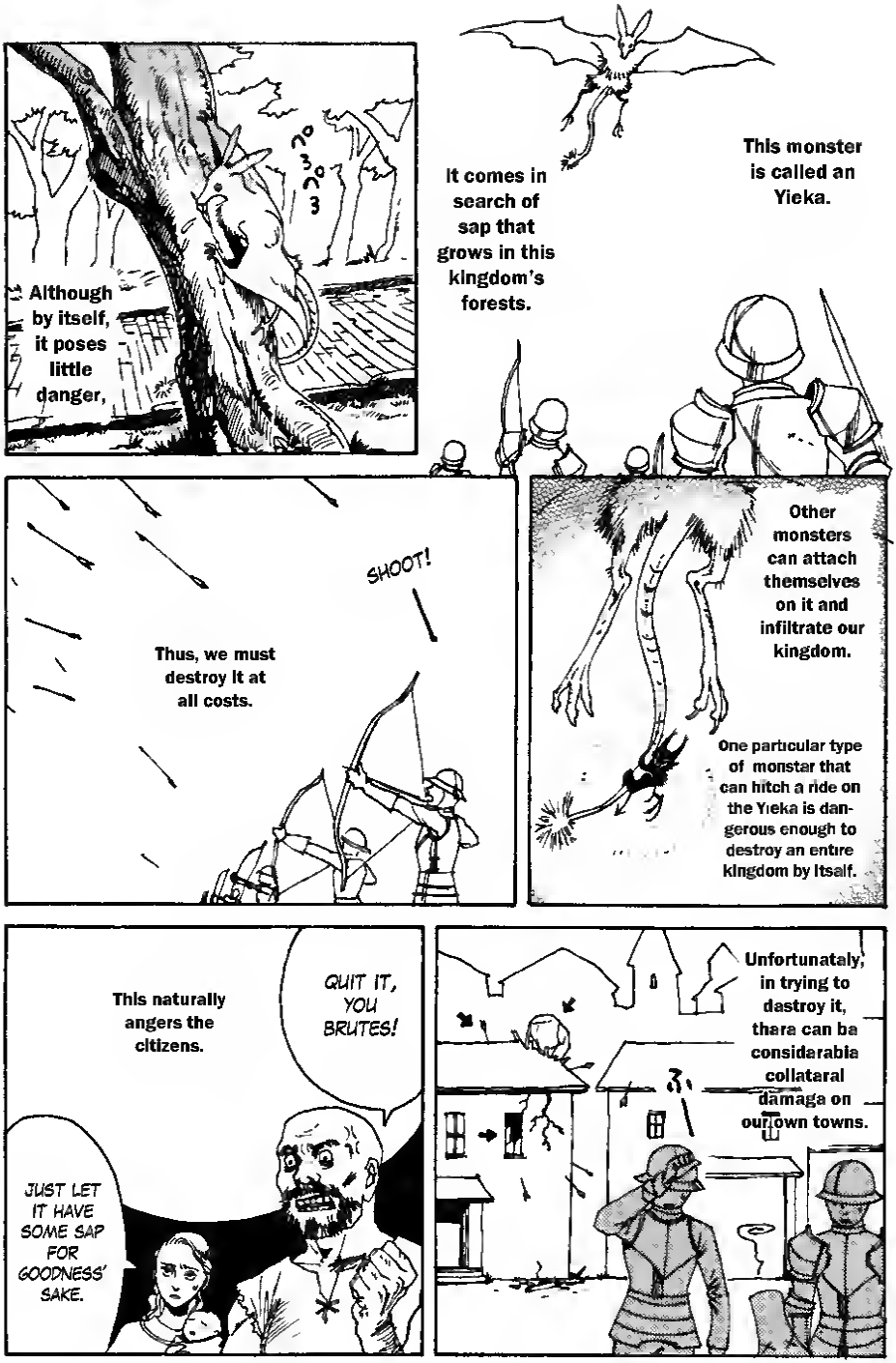

OH, I SEE.
THIS IS MY FIRST TRIP OVERSEAS, SO I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS.

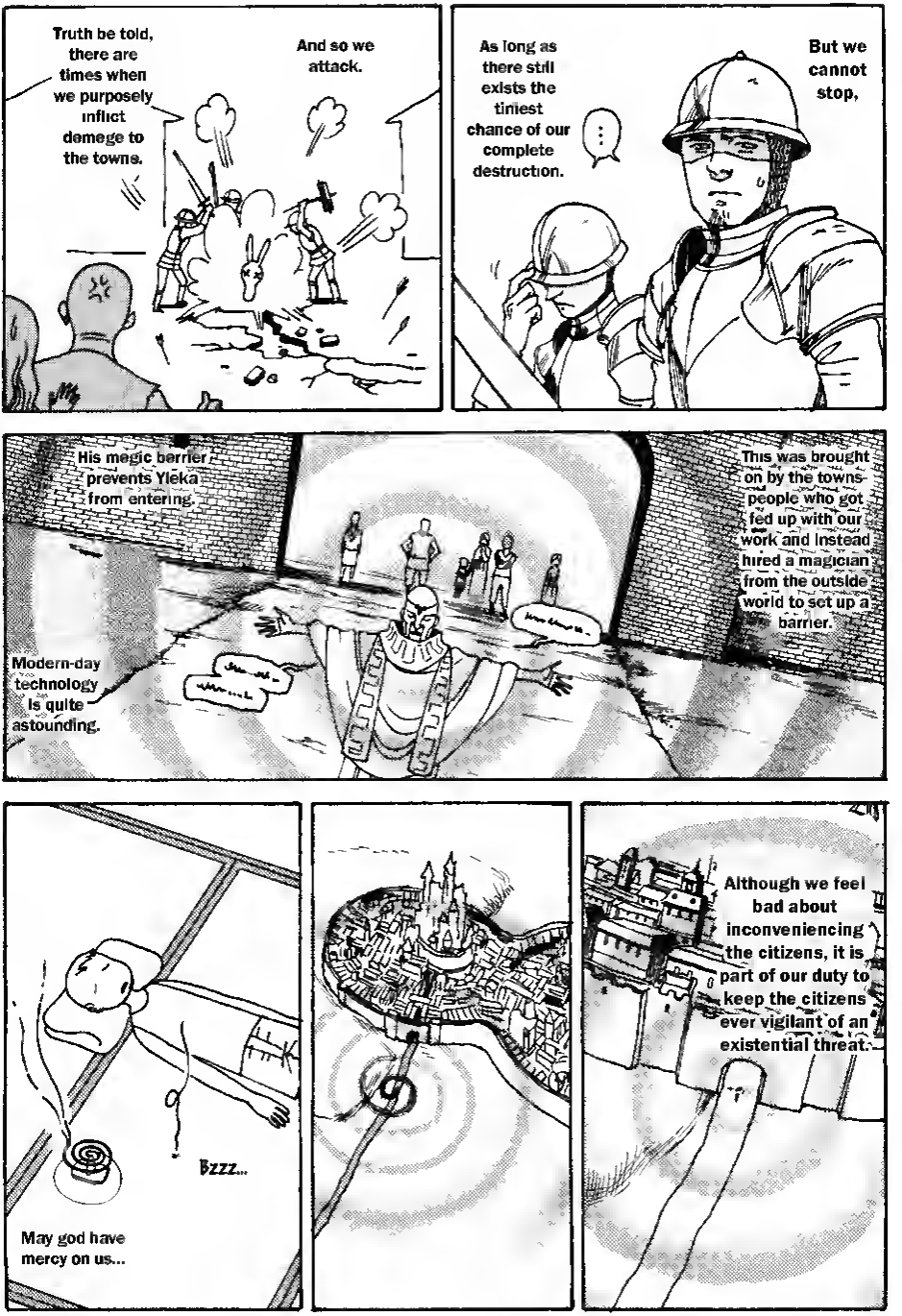
-END-


Once upon a time, there was a small kingdom in a vast continent.
Although not particularly rich, it was calm and beautiful.
ユイカ！ユイユイカ！

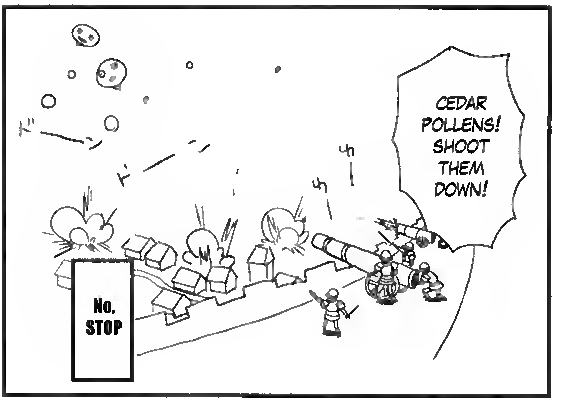
To maintain the peace and order of this kingdom.
It's my duty to destroy the monsters that come to raid these lands from the outside world from time to time.
Here in this kingdom, I work as a soldier.

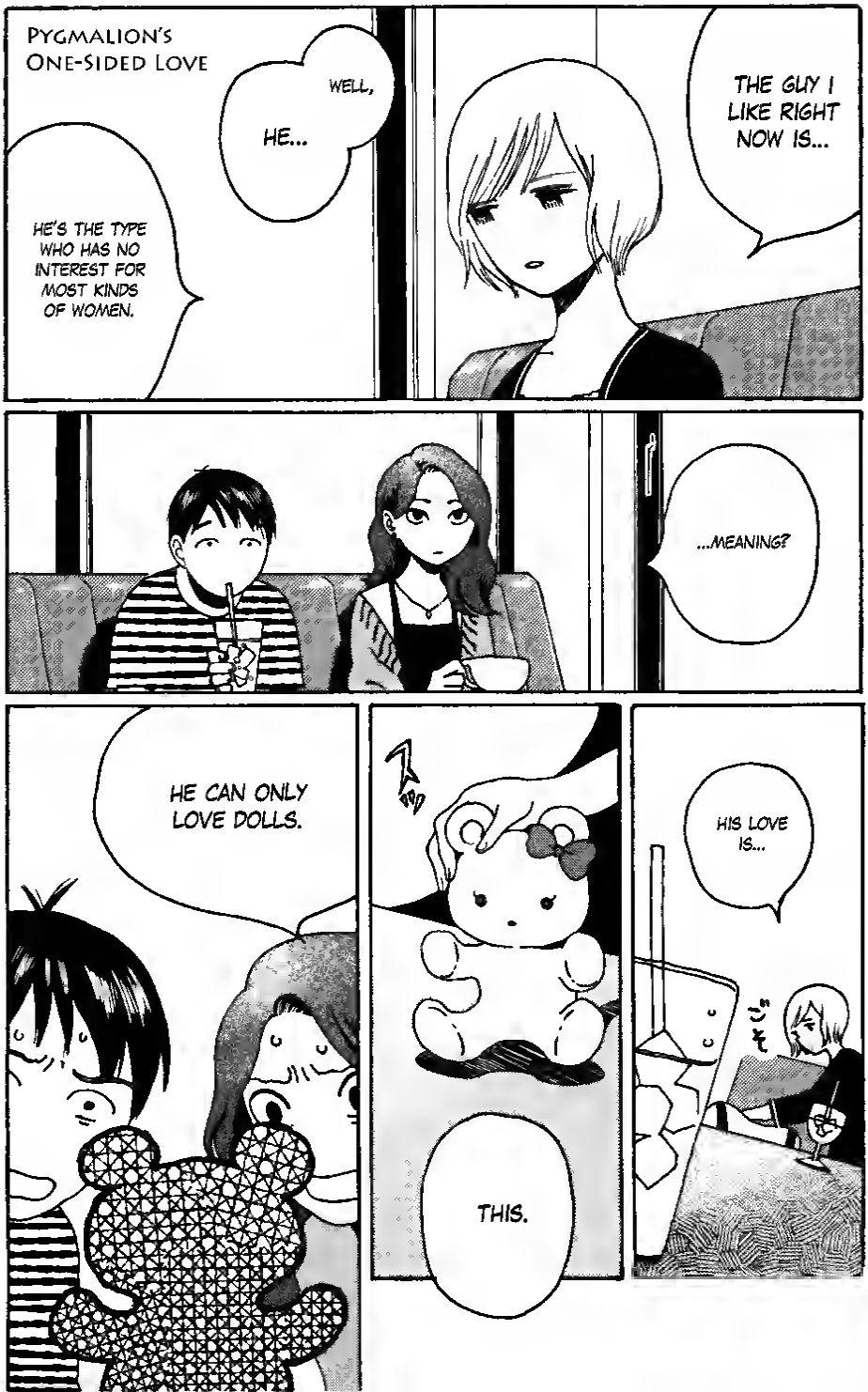

MONSTER ALERT!
I was born unto this world to defend my beloved kingdom.
Although my job is fraught with grief and hardship, I consider it a sacred role.

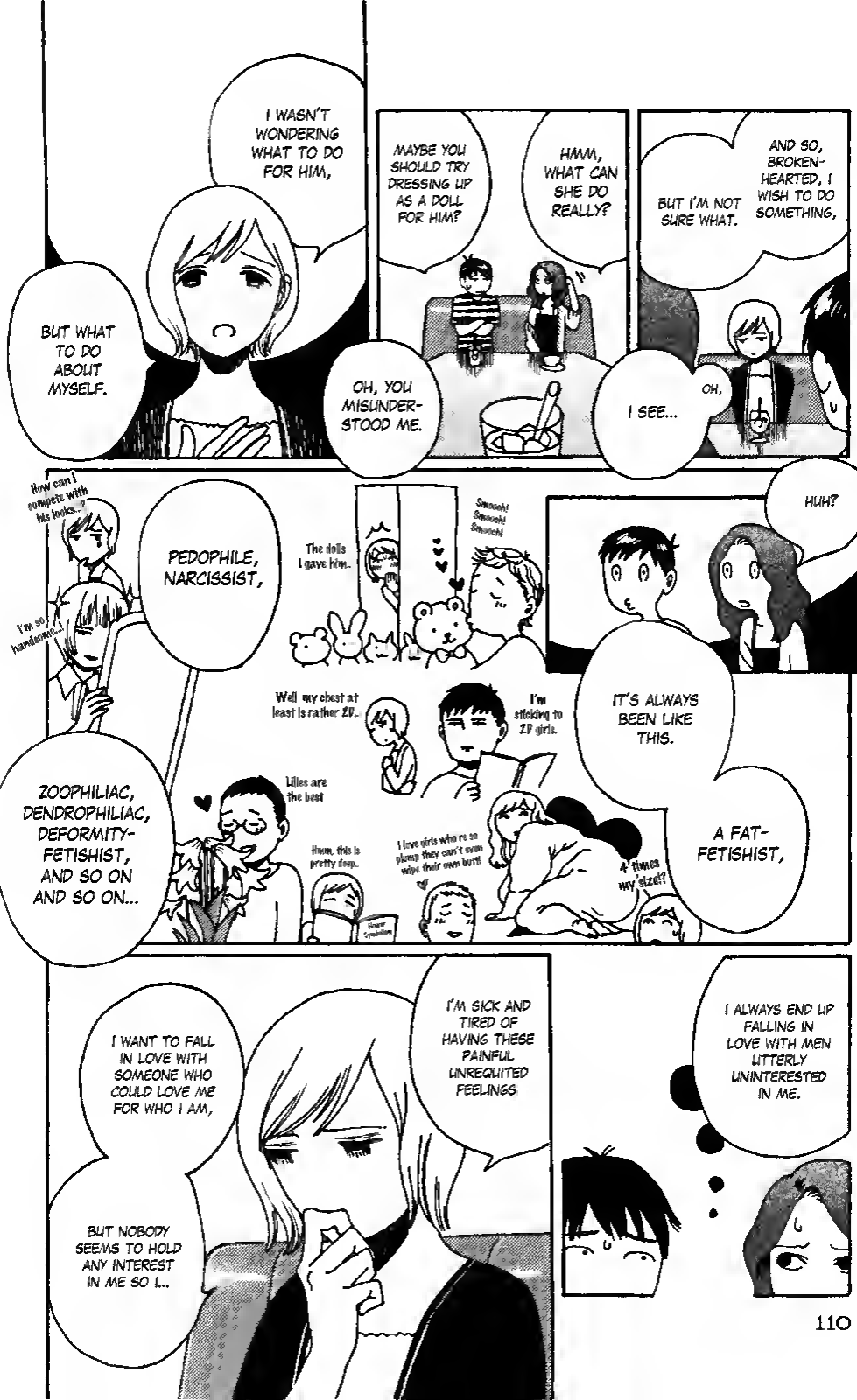

Although by itself, it poses little danger,
It comes in search of sap that grows in this kingdom's forests.
This monster is called an Yieka.
Other monsters can attach themselves on it and infiltrate our kingdom.
One particular type of monster that can hitch a ride on the Yieka is dangerous enough to destroy an entire kingdom by itself.
SHOOT!
Thus, we must destroy it at all costs.
This naturally angers the citizens.
QUIT IT, YOU BRUTES!
JUST LET IT HAVE SOME SAP FOR GOODNESS' SAKE.
Unfortunately, in trying to destroy it, there can be considerable collateral damage on our own towns.


Truth be told, there are times when we purposely inflict demege to the towns.
And so we attack.
As long as there still exists the tiniest chance of our complete destruction.
But we cannot stop,
His megic berrier prevents Yleka from entering.
This was brought on by the towns-people who got fed up with our work and instead hired a magician from the outside world to set up a barrier.
Modern-day technology is quite astounding.
Bzzz...
May god have mercy on us...
Although we feel bad about inconveniencing the citizens, it is part of our duty to keep the citizens ever vigilant of an existential threat.

-END-

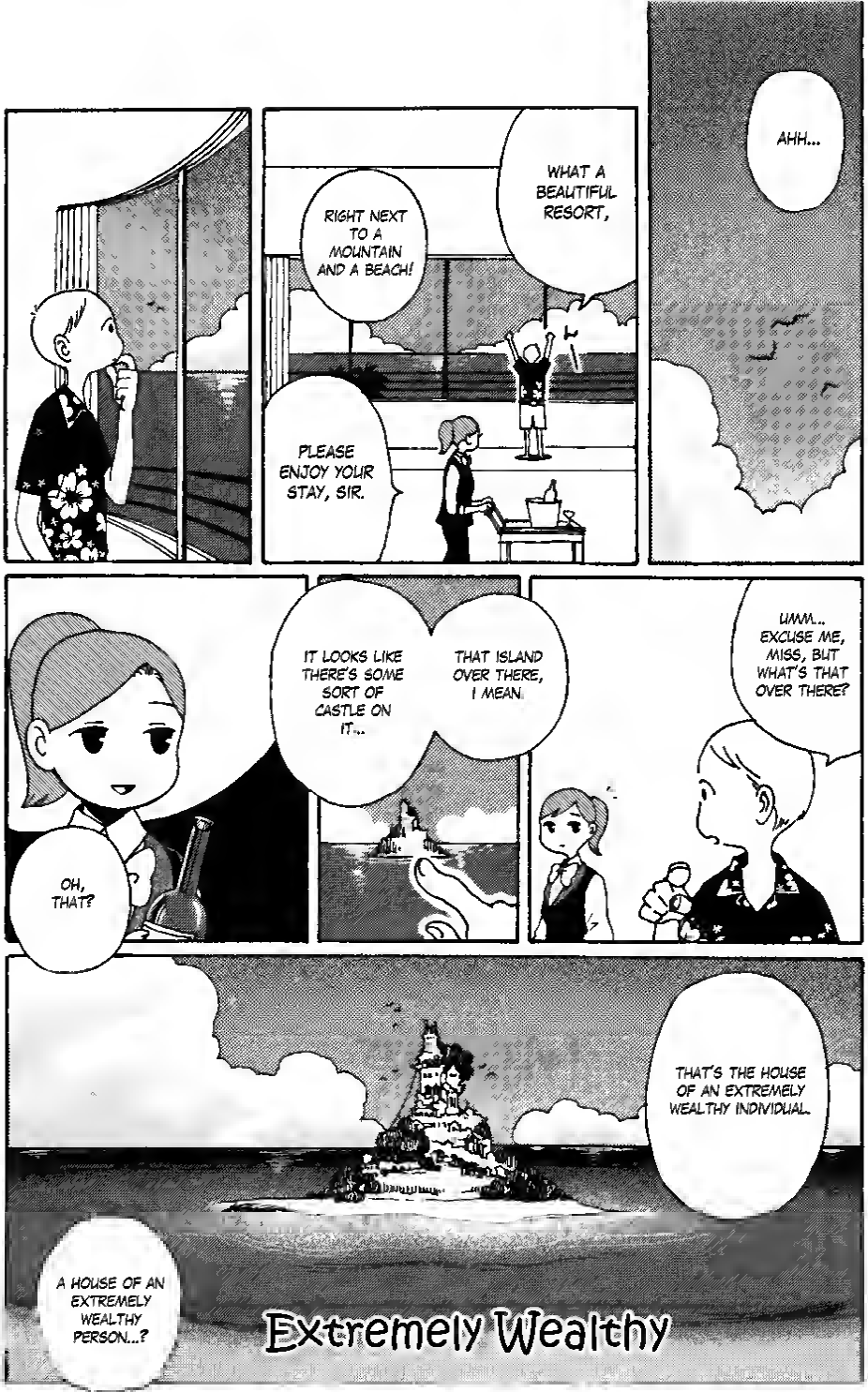

CEDAR POLLENS! SHOOT THEM DOWN!
No. STOP

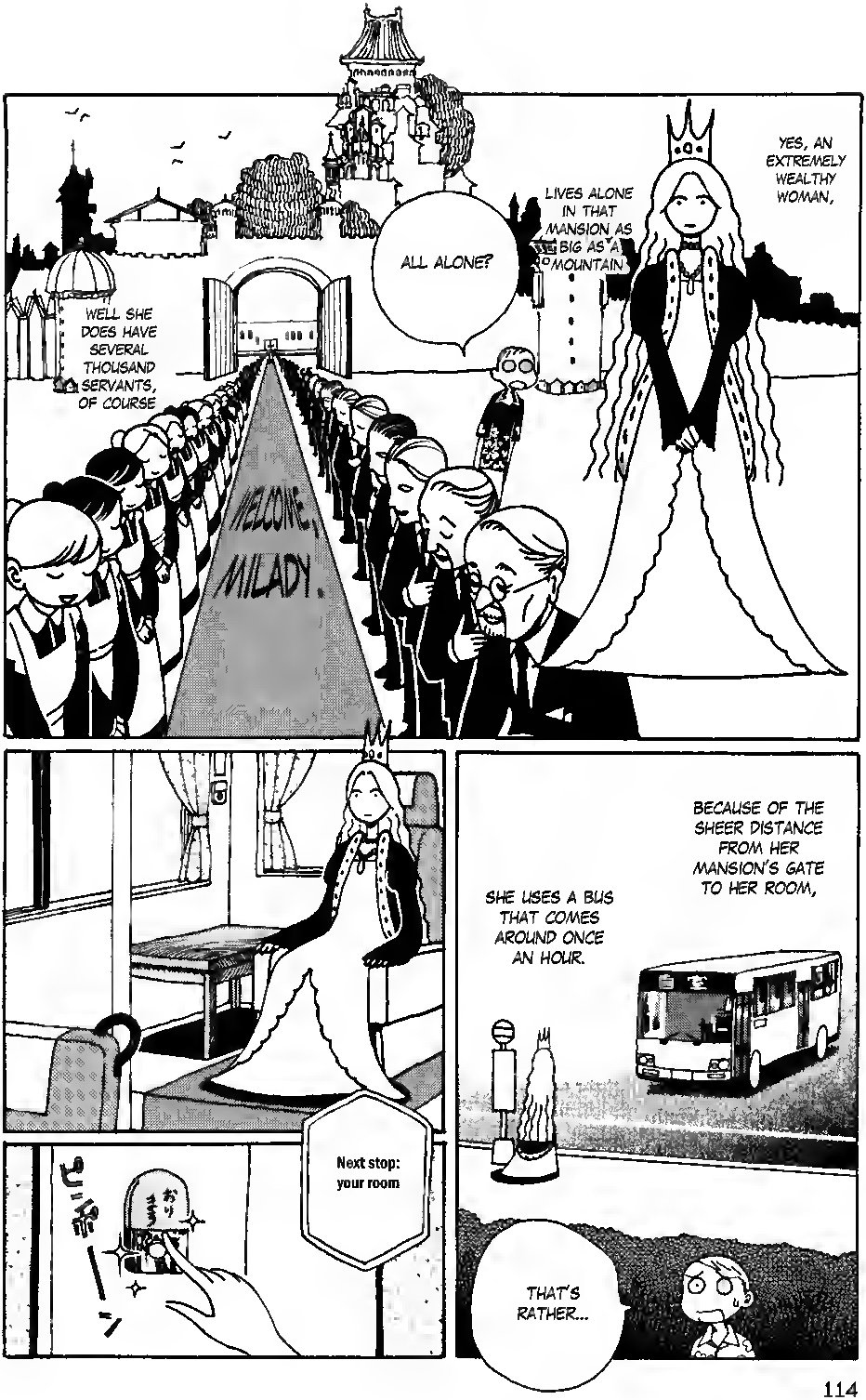

Pygmalion's One-Sided Love
THE GUY I LIKE RIGHT NOW IS...
WELL, HE...
HE'S THE TYPE WHO HAS NO INTEREST FOR MOST KINDS OF WOMEN.
...MEANING?
HE CAN ONLY LOVE DOLLS.
HIS LOVE IS...
THIS.

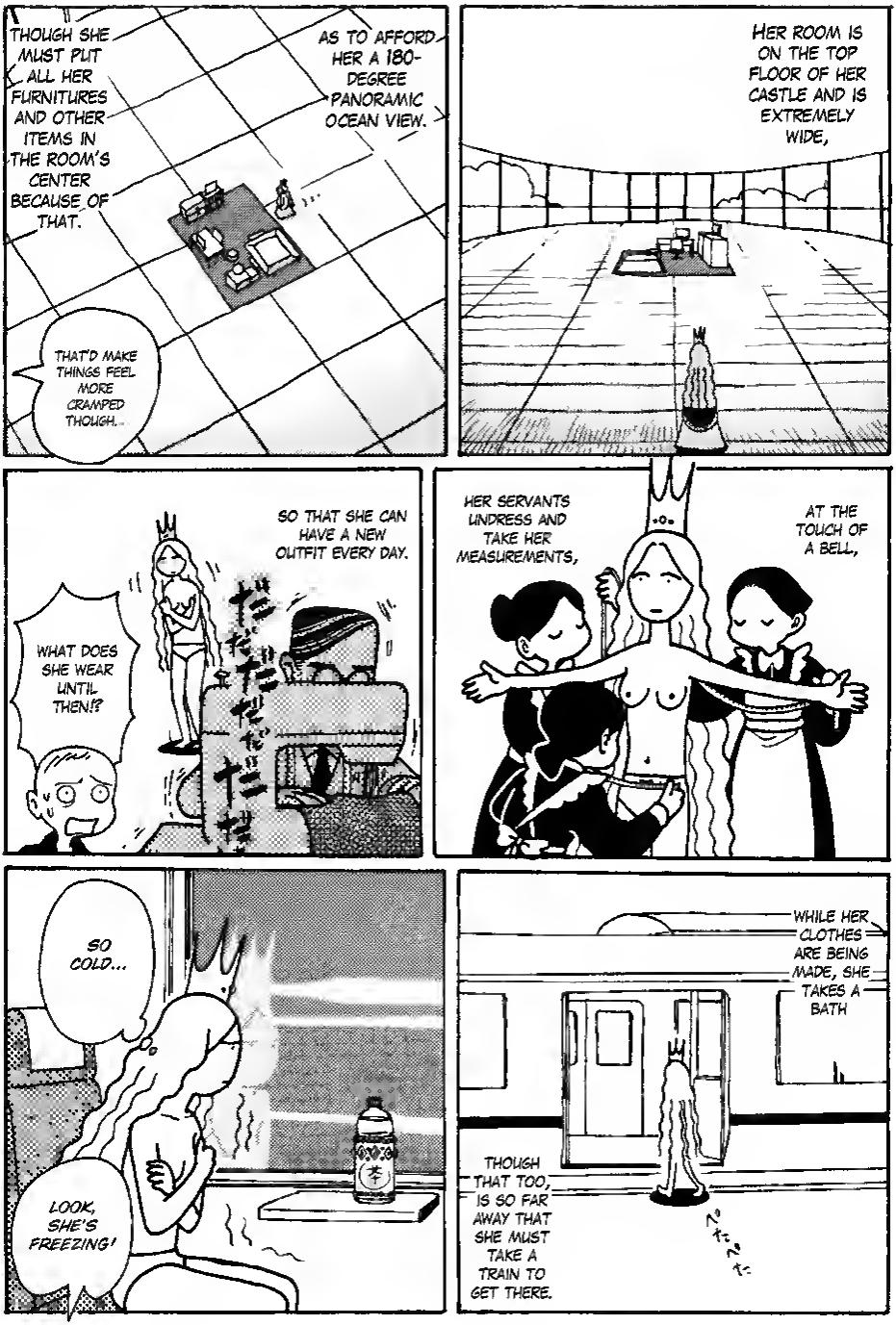

I WASN'T WONDERING WHAT TO DO FOR HIM,
BUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT MYSELF.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY DRESSING UP AS A DOLL FOR HIM?
HMM, WHAT CAN SHE DO REALLY?
OH, YOU MISUNDERSTOOD ME.
BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT.
AND SO, BROKEN-HEARTED, I WISH TO DO SOMETHING,
OH, I SEE...
How can I compete with his looks...?
I'm so handsome...!
PEDOPHILE, NARCISSIST,
The dolls I gave him..
Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!
HUH?
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
Well my chest at least is rather ZD..
I'm sticking to ZD girls.
ZOOPHILIAC, DENDROPHILIAC, DEFORMITY-FETISHIST, AND SO ON AND SO ON...
Lilies are the best
Hmm, this is pretty deep..
I love girls who're so plump they can't even wipe their own butt!
4 times my size!?
A FAT-FETISHIST,
I WANT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE WHO COULD LOVE ME FOR WHO I AM,
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF HAVING THESE PAINFUL UNREQUITED FEELINGS
BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO HOLD ANY INTEREST IN ME SO I...
I ALWAYS END UP FALLING IN LOVE WITH MEN UTTERLY UNINTERESTED IN ME.

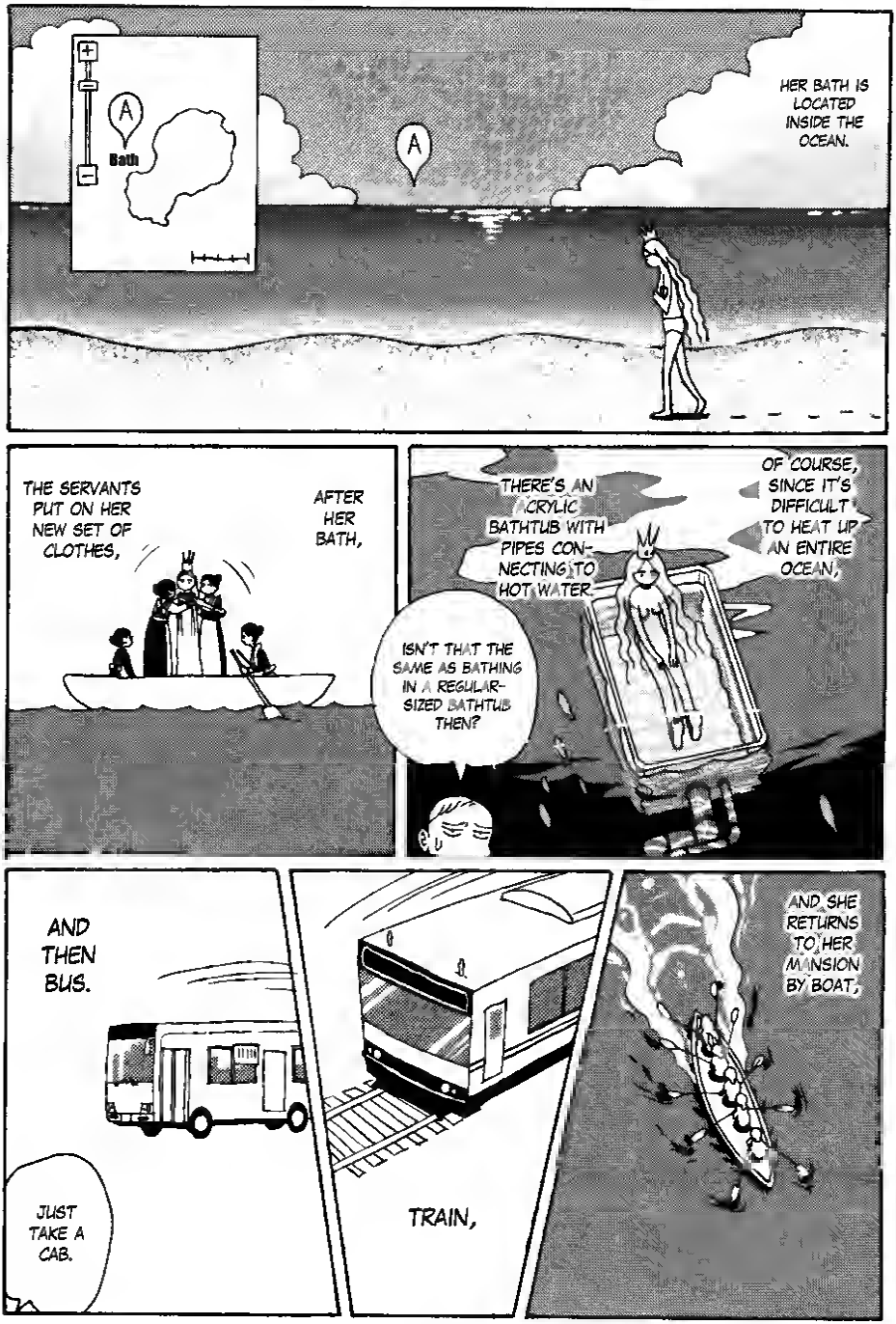
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF WEIRD TASTES IN THIS WORLD.
I GUESS EVEN THAT CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS A SPECIFIC PREFERENCE...
LOVING THOSE WHO'RE UNINTERESTED IN HER AND A DIFFICULTY IN LOVING SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY LIKES HER..
JUST HOW DO THEY GET OFF ON ALL THOSE STUFF?
I REALLY CAN'T GET ANY OF THESE PEOPLE,
OR AT THE VERY LEAST, IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE SHE DESPISED HERSELF OR ANYTHING...
BUT... I DON'T KNOW, SHE LOOKED A LITTLE HAPPY,
N-NOT YOU TOO! STOP!
!?
I THINK I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HER THOUGH...
HMM...
-END-

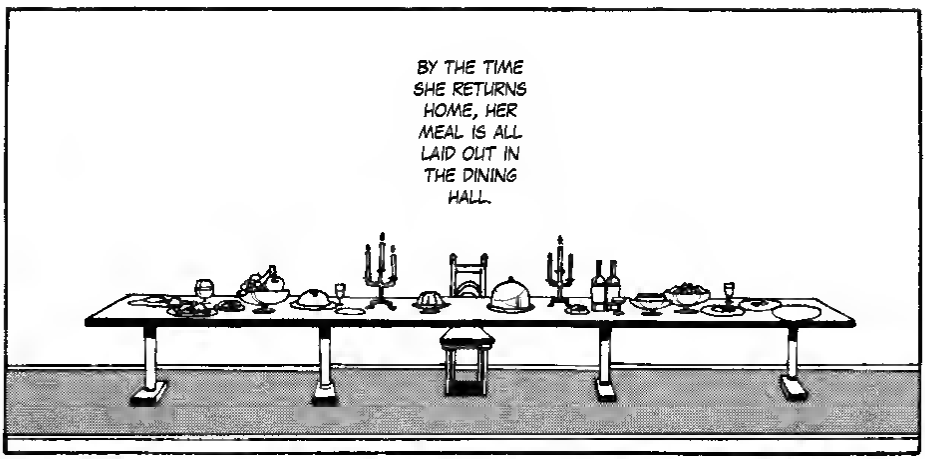
Fetishes
Search
There sure are a lot of weird tastes in this world...


AHH...
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL RESORT,
RIGHT NEXT TO A MOUNTAIN AND A BEACH!
PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY, SIR.
UMM... EXCUSE ME, MISS, BUT WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?
THAT ISLAND OVER THERE, I MEAN.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOME SORT OF CASTLE ON IT...
OH, THAT?
THAT'S THE HOUSE OF AN EXTREMELY WEALTHY INDIVIDUAL.
A HOUSE OF AN EXTREMELY WEALTHY PERSON...?
Extremely Wealthy

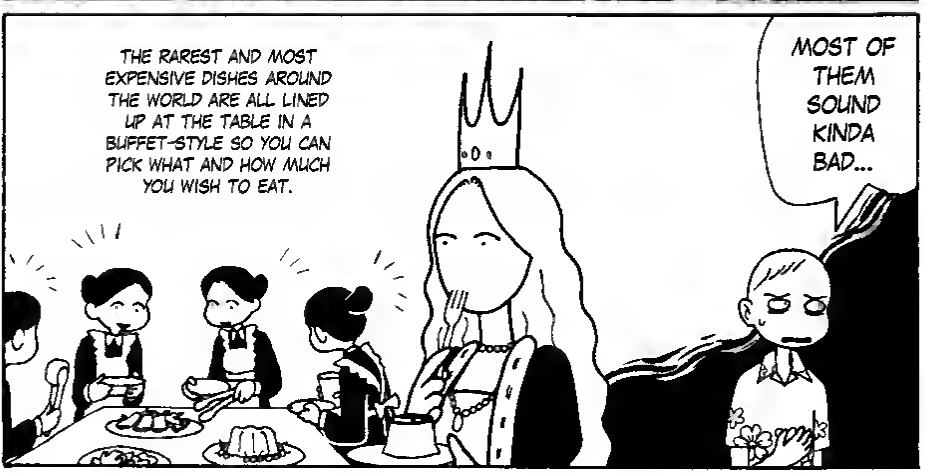

ALL ALONE?
LIVES ALONE IN THAT MANSION AS BIG AS A MOUNTAIN.
YES, AN EXTREMELY WEALTHY WOMAN,
WELL SHE DOES HAVE SEVERAL THOUSAND SERVANTS, OF COURSE
WELCOME, MILADY.
BECAUSE OF THE SHEER DISTANCE FROM HER MANSION'S GATE TO HER ROOM,
SHE USES A BUS THAT COMES AROUND ONCE AN HOUR.
THAT'S RATHER...
Next stop: your room
ピンポーン
おりまーす

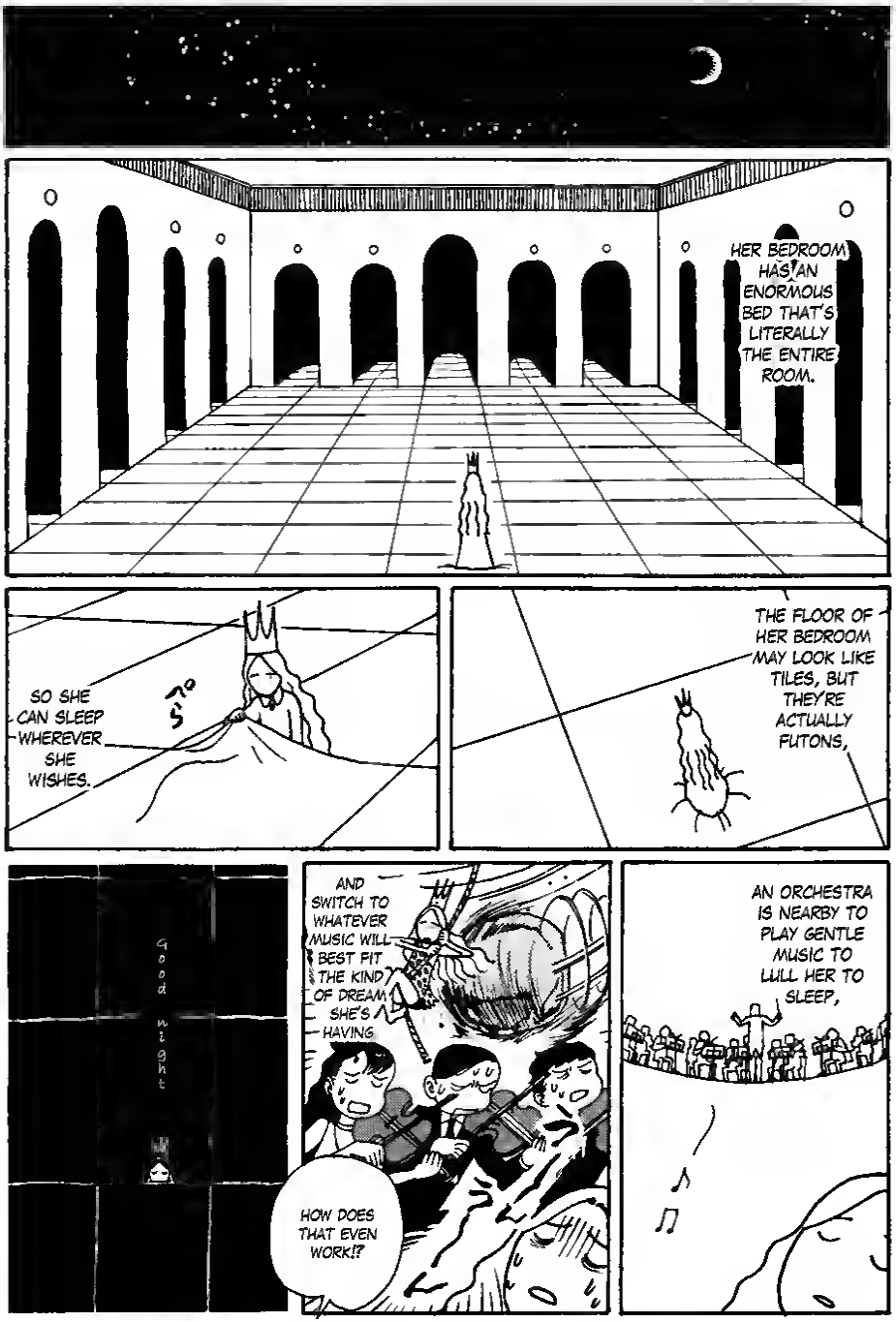

THOUGH SHE MUST PUT ALL HER FURNITURES AND OTHER ITEMS IN THE ROOM'S CENTER BECAUSE OF THAT.
AS TO AFFORD HER A 180-DEGREE PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEW.
THAT'D MAKE THINGS FEEL MORE CRAMPED THOUGH...
HER ROOM IS ON THE TOP FLOOR OF HER CASTLE AND IS EXTREMELY WIDE,
SO THAT SHE CAN HAVE A NEW OUTFIT EVERY DAY.
WHAT DOES SHE WEAR UNTIL THEN!?
だだだ

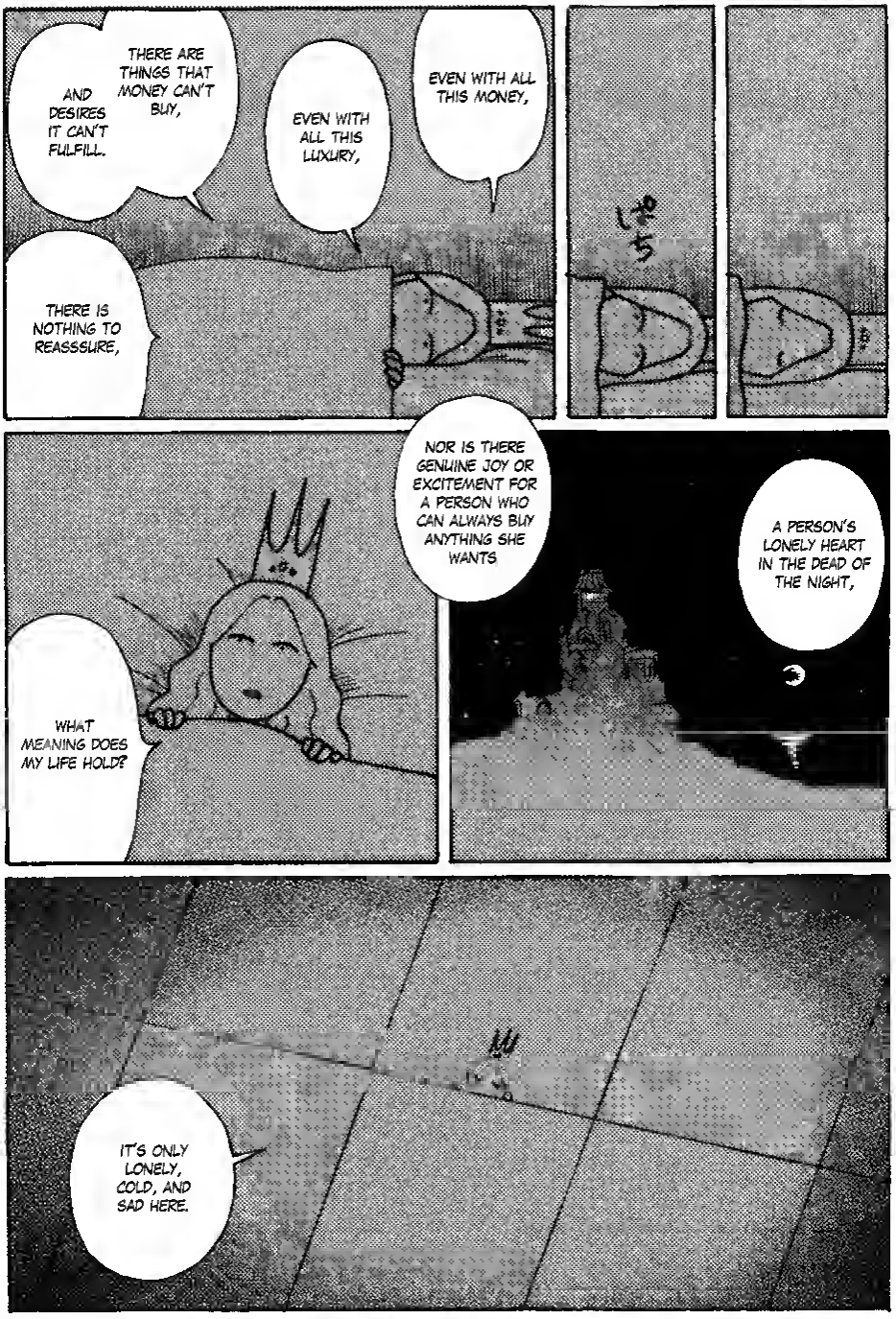

A
Bath
A
HER BATH IS LOCATED INSIDE THE OCEAN.
THE SERVANTS PUT ON HER NEW SET OF CLOTHES,
AFTER HER BATH,
THERE'S AN ACRYLIC BATHTUB WITH PIPES CONNECTING TO HOT WATER.
OF COURSE, SINCE IT'S DIFFICULT TO HEAT UP AN ENTIRE OCEAN,
ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS BATHING IN A REGULAR-SIZED BATHTUB THEN?
AND THEN BUS.
JUST TAKE A CAB.
TRAIN,
AND SHE RETURNS TO HER MANSION BY BOAT.


BY THE TIME SHE RETURNS HOME, HER MEAL IS ALL LAID OUT IN THE DINING HALL.

CAVIAR ROLLS, BEAR PAW, BIRD NEST'S SOUP, GIANT TUNA BELLY, ALBINO JAPANESE BLACK WAGYU, SHELL-LESS ECARGOT, ICE-CREAM WITH ACORNS FAVOURED BY IBERIAN BLACK PIGS, SEA GRAPE JUICE, CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES


THE RAREST AND MOST EXPENSIVE DISHES AROUND THE WORLD ARE ALL LINED UP AT THE TABLE IN A BUFFET-STYLE SO YOU CAN PICK WHAT AND HOW MUCH YOU WISH TO EAT.
MOST OF THEM SOUND KINDA BAD...

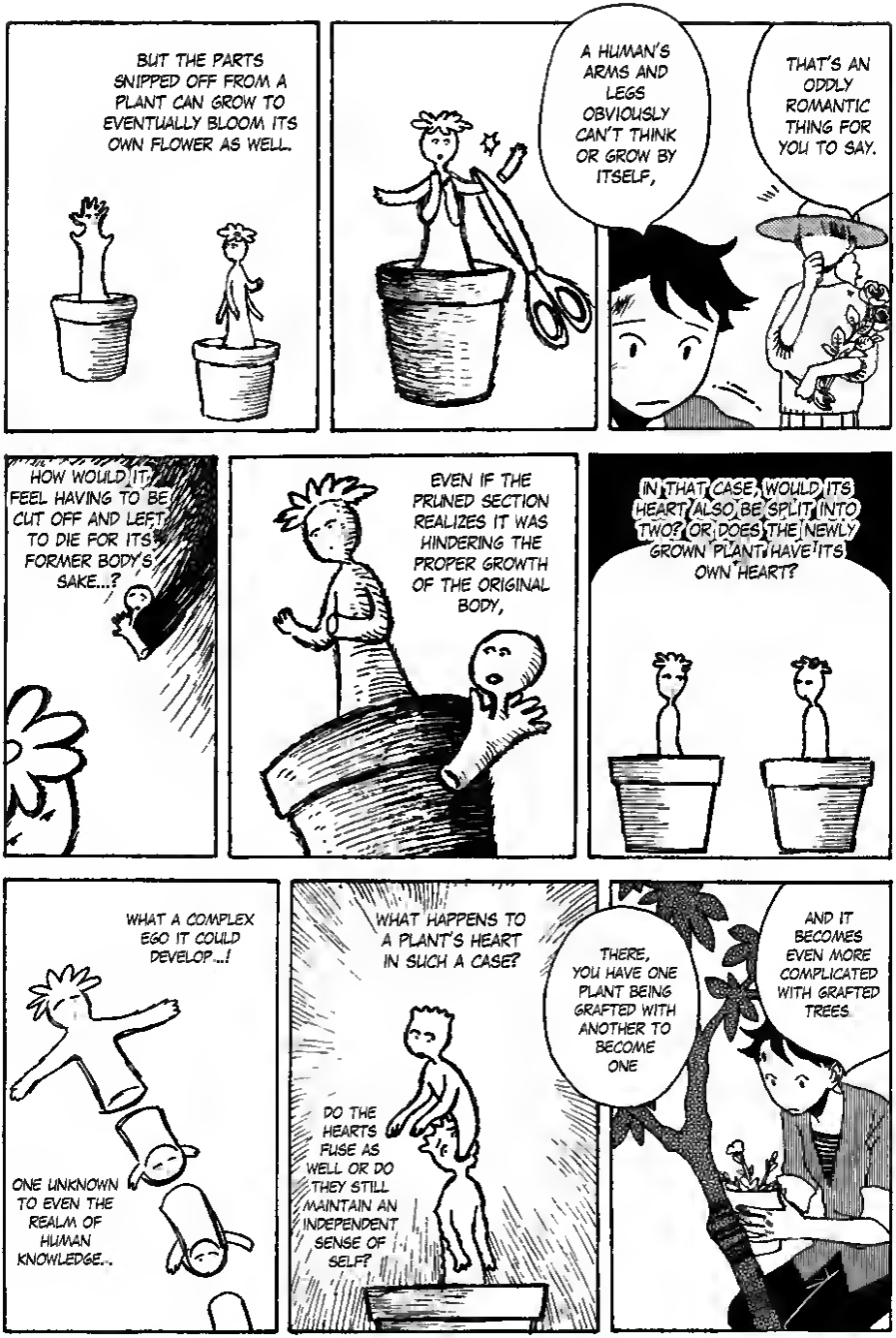

HER BEDROOM HAS AN ENORMOUS BED THAT'S LITERALLY THE ENTIRE ROOM.
SO SHE CAN SLEEP WHEREVER SHE WISHES.
THE FLOOR OF HER BEDROOM MAY LOOK LIKE TILES, BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY FUTONS,
Good night
AND SWITCH TO WHATEVER MUSIC WILL BEST FIT THE KIND OF DREAM SHE'S HAVING
HOW DOES THAT EVEN WORK!?
AN ORCHESTRA IS NEARBY TO PLAY GENTLE MUSIC TO LULL HER TO SLEEP,

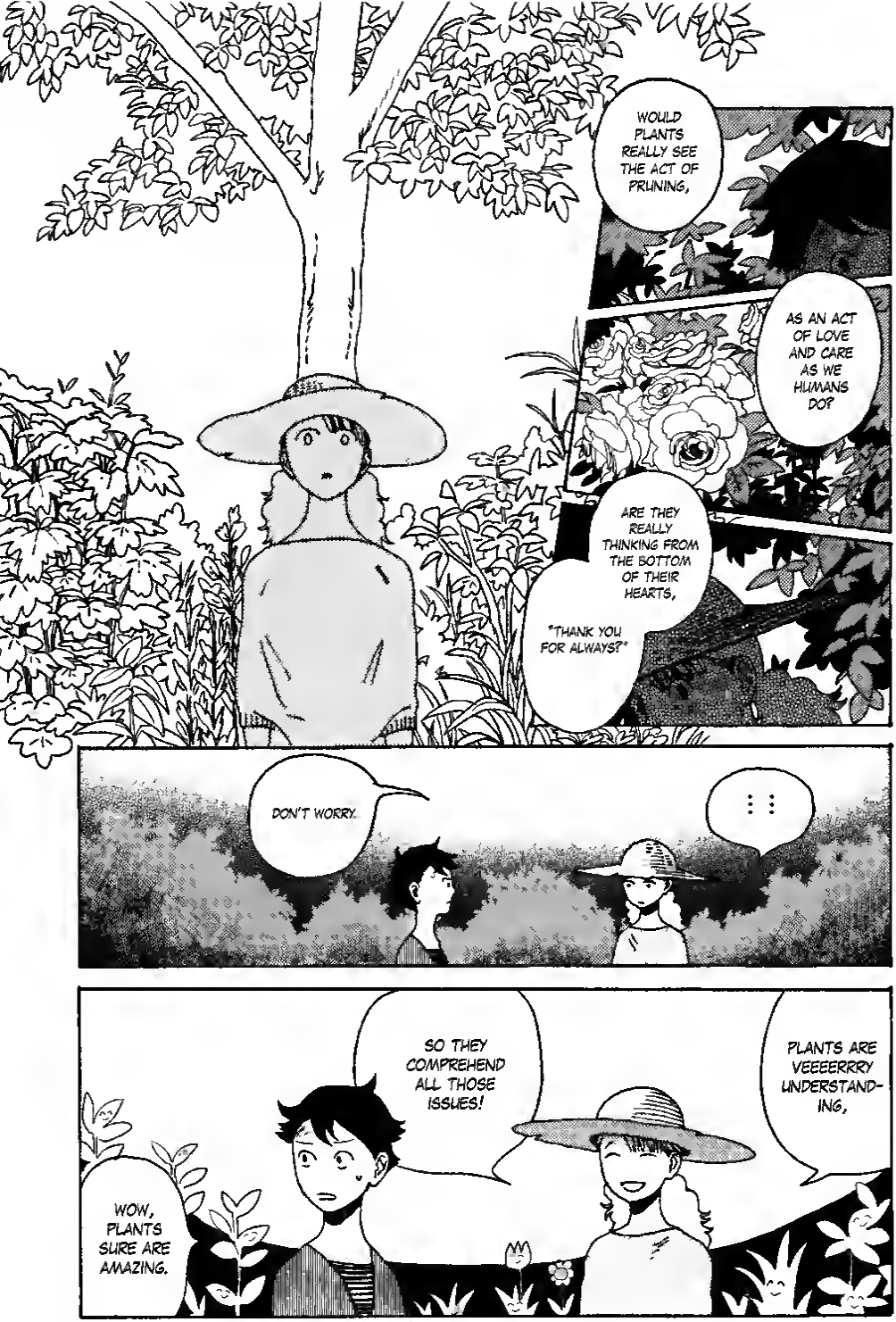

EVEN WITH ALL THIS MONEY,
EVEN WITH ALL THIS LUXURY,
THERE ARE THINGS THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY,
AND DESIRES IT CAN'T FULFILL.
THERE IS NOTHING TO REASSSURE,
NOR IS THERE GENUINE JOY OR EXCITEMENT FOR A PERSON WHO CAN ALWAYS BUY ANYTHING SHE WANTS
A PERSON'S LONELY HEART IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT,
WHAT MEANING DOES MY LIFE HOLD?
IT'S ONLY LONELY, COLD, AND SAD HERE.

Kitchen
Bedroom
IT MIGHT BE SMALL, BUT MY MODEST HOUSE HAS EVERYTHING I NEED.
A BATH, A BED, A KITCHEN.
ON MY PHONE IS A PHONEBOOK FULL OF MY FRIEND'S NUMBERS.
...
I GUESS EVEN THE RICH HAVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS...
BY THE WAY,
WHAT DOES THAT WOMAN EVEN DO TO BE SO EXTREMELY WEALTHY?
MY JOB CAN BE A PAIN, BUT ITS STABLE AND PAYS DECENTLY.
AND I HAVE A LIVELY FAMILY THAT LOVES ME DESPITE ALL THEIR FLAWS.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S ALL YOU REALLY NEED TO BE HAPPY IN THIS WORLD...
HER JOB IS TO GET PEOPLE TO THINK EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID JUST NOW.
WHA?
SIMPLY PUT,
"THAT HAVING MORE MONEY ISN'T THE SAME AS HAVING EVERYTHING."
IT'S A JOB TO MAKE THE POOR RESIGNATE THEMSELVES TO THEIR STATUS IN LIFE AND FIND SECURITY IN MODESTY.
-END-

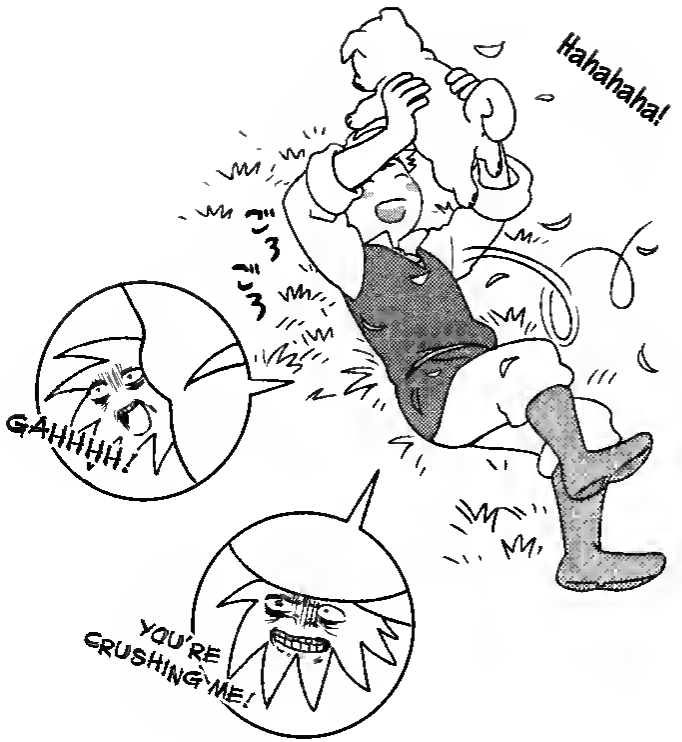
THE FLOWER I WAS GIFTED WITH ALREADY GREW THIS BIG
HMM, LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT THIS IN A POT OF SOIL NOW
WHAT, SUCH A HASSLE ..
Talking Plants
THEY WILL?
IF YOU GIVE IT LOTS OF LOVE, THEY'LL BE SURE TO RESPOND.
PLANTS HAVE HEARTS TOO, YOU KNOW
DON'T SAY THAT.

HERE'S A FLOWER POT.
NICE GARDEN.
IT'S BECAUSE I GIVE THEM LOTS OF LOVE.
YOU CAN HEAR THEM SAY, "THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS," CAN'T YOU?
チョキン
YOU SAID THAT EVEN PLANTS HAVE HEARTS, BUT...
JUST DOING SOME NEEDED PRUNING SO THE NUTRIENTS GO TO WHERE THEY'RE NEEDED.
YOU'RE CUTTING OFF THE BUD?
WHERE DO YOU THINK A PLANT'S HEART EXACTLY IS...?


BUT THE PARTS SNIPPED OFF FROM A PLANT CAN GROW TO EVENTUALLY BLOOM ITS OWN FLOWER AS WELL.
A HUMAN'S ARMS AND LEGS OBVIOUSLY CAN'T THINK OR GROW BY ITSELF,
THAT'S AN ODDLY ROMANTIC THING FOR YOU TO SAY.
HOW WOULD IT FEEL HAVING TO BE CUT OFF AND LEFT TO DIE FOR ITS FORMER BODY'S SAKE...?
EVEN IF THE PRUNED SECTION REALIZES IT WAS HINDERING THE PROPER GROWTH OF THE ORIGINAL BODY,
IN THAT CASE, WOULD ITS HEART ALSO BE SPLIT INTO TWO? OR DOES THE NEWLY GROWN PLANT HAVE ITS OWN HEART?
WHAT A COMPLEX EGO IT COULD DEVELOP...!
ONE UNKNOWN TO EVEN THE REALM OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE...
WHAT HAPPENS TO A PLANT'S HEART IN SUCH A CASE?
DO THE HEARTS FUSE AS WELL OR DO THEY STILL MAINTAIN AN INDEPENDENT SENSE OF SELF?
THERE, YOU HAVE ONE PLANT BEING GRAFTED WITH ANOTHER TO BECOME ONE
AND IT BECOMES EVEN MORE COMPLICATED WITH GRAFTED TREES.


WOULD PLANTS REALLY SEE THE ACT OF PRUNING,
AS AN ACT OF LOVE AND CARE AS WE HUMANS DO?
ARE THEY REALLY THINKING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS,
"THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS?"
DON'T WORRY.
. . .
SO THEY COMPREHEND ALL THOSE ISSUES!
PLANTS ARE VEEEERRRY UNDERSTAND-ING,
WOW, PLANTS SURE ARE AMAZING.

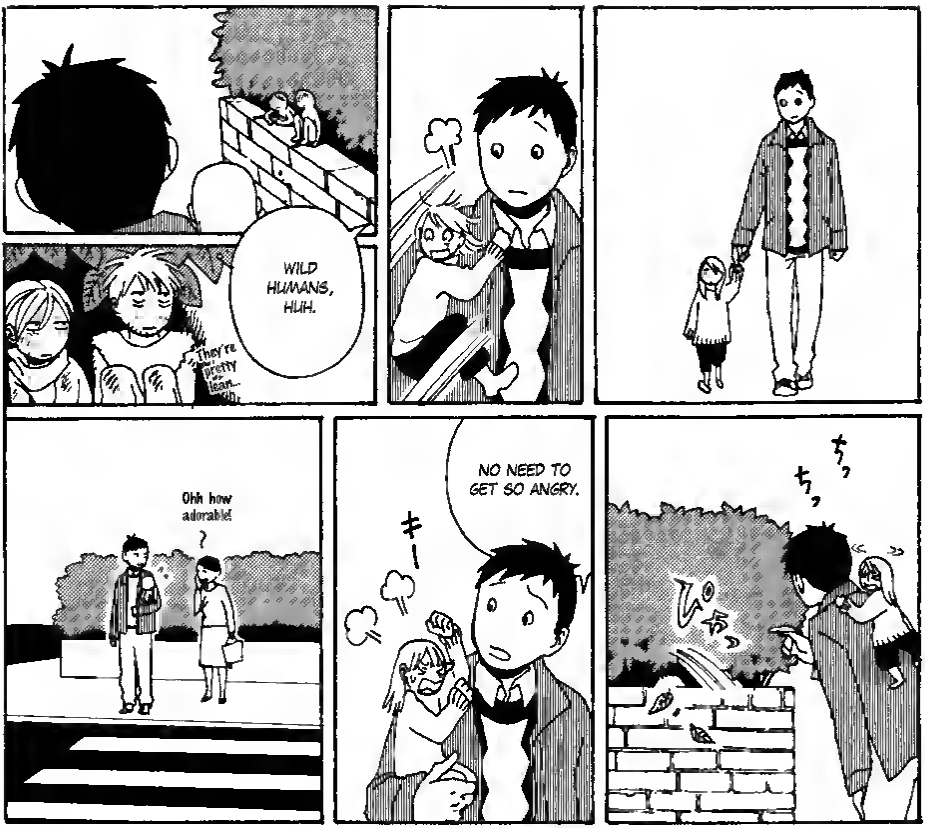
-END-

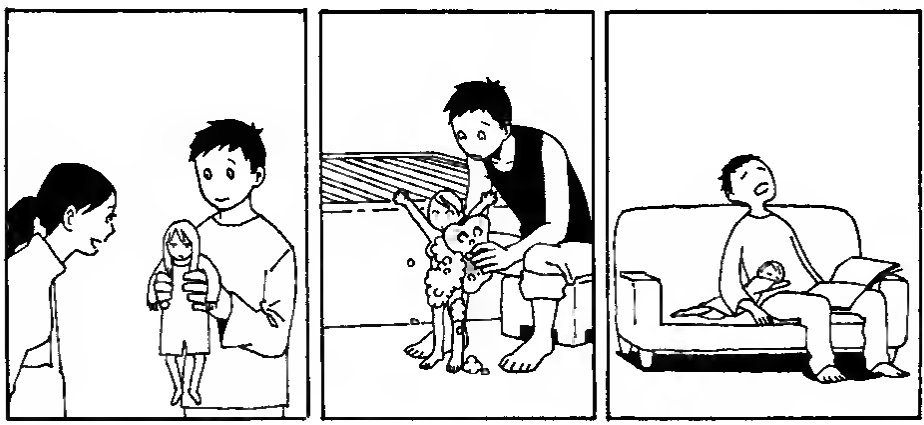

Hahahaha!
GAHHHHH!
YOU'RE CRUSHING ME!

A FRIEND'S HUMAN I KNOW RECENTLY HAD A BABY.
HE'S LOOKING AROUND FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE HER IN.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
SHE'S 4 MONTHS OLD.
Spring
WAAHHH!
THIS IS YOUR NEW HOME

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST RETURN HER...
ぴゃー
How to raise hamsters
ぴゃー
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE'S IN AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE.
SHE'LL GET USED TO IT.
ぴゃー
SHE WON'T STOP CRYING.
ぎゅ
チュン
チュン
チュン
Human Food

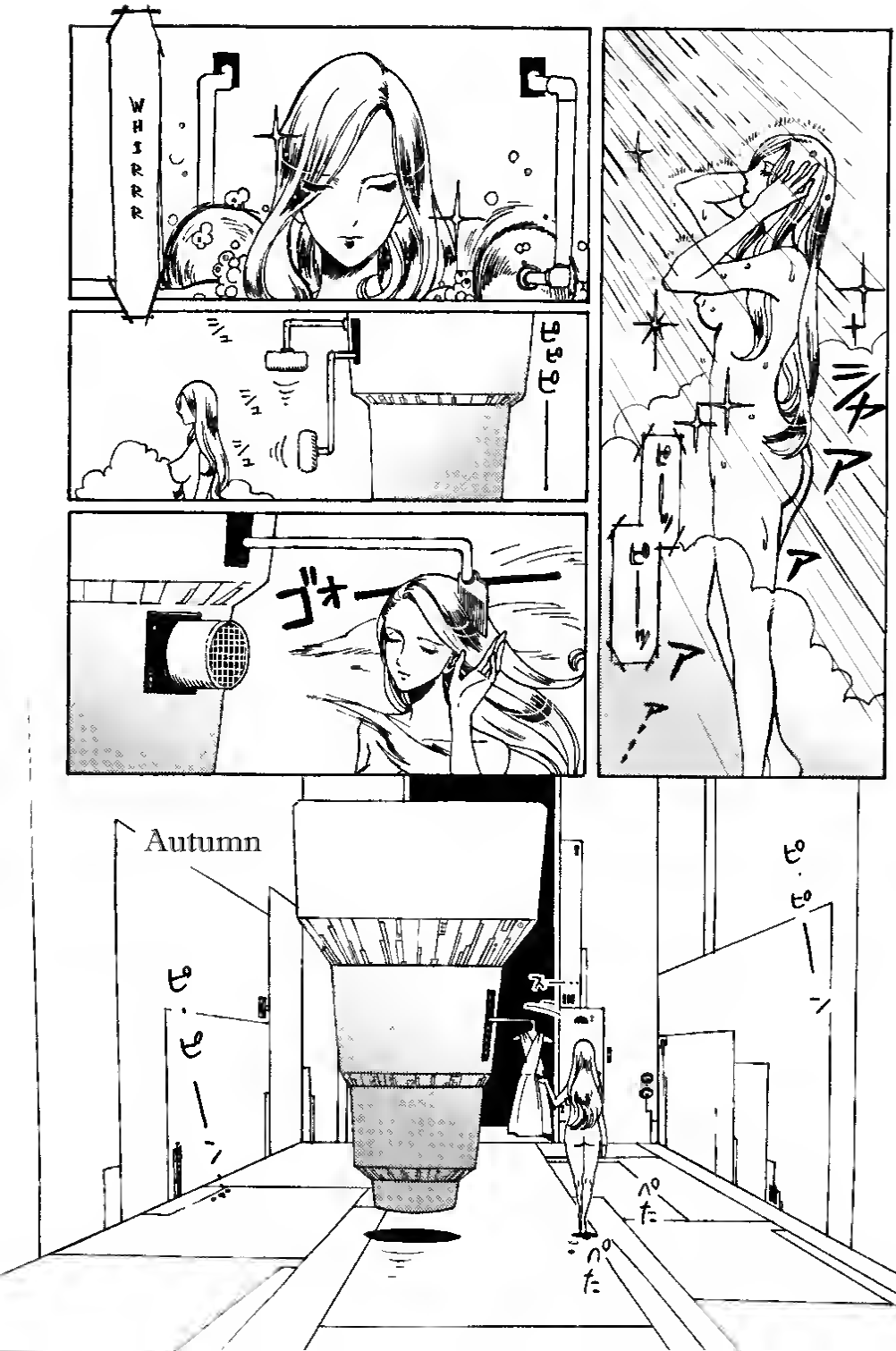
つーん

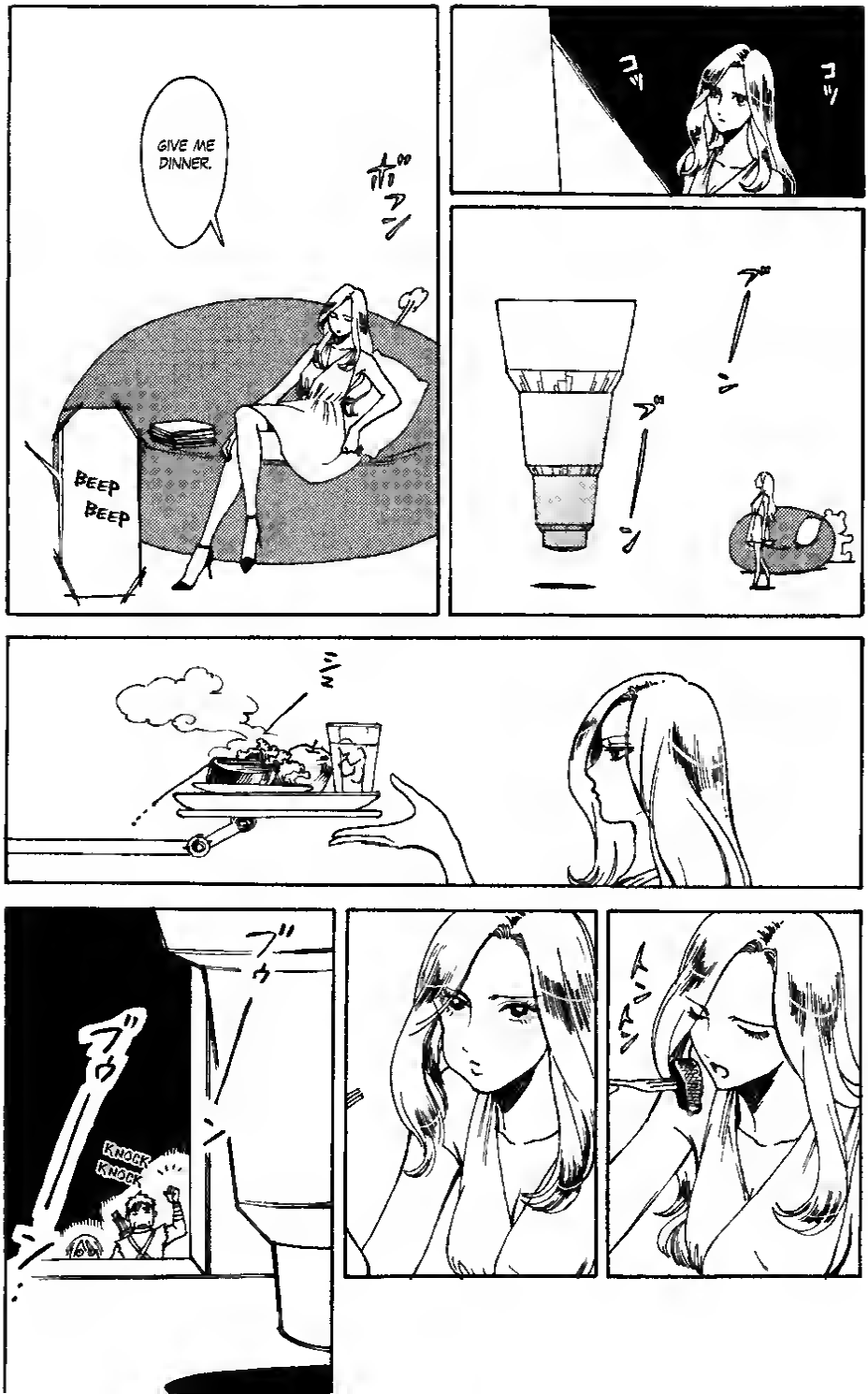

WILD HUMANS, HUH.
They're pretty ter... ...ous.
Ohh how adorable!
?
NO NEED TO GET SO ANGRY.
キー
ちっ
ちっ
ぴっ



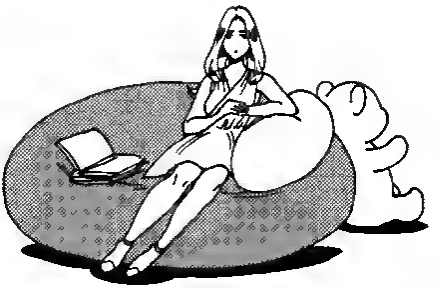
SHE'S NOT AS ENERGETIC AS SHE USED TO BE.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, LAZY-PANTS?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE HER OUT FOR MORE WALKS?
YOU'VE SURE GROWN PUDGY.

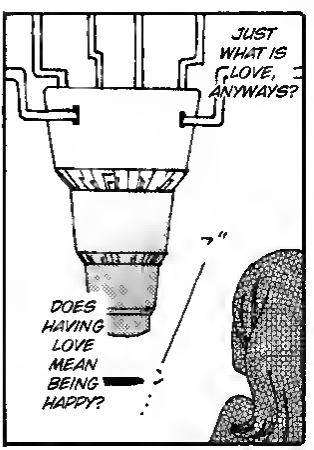
OHH, SHE'S JUST GETTING ON IN HER YEARS..
I WONDER WHY.
ゴウン
SHE WET HERSELF.
AH-
N?
YOU BECAME A GRANNY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
THERE, THERE
MNN..
NOT YET, I WANT TO SEE WHAT HER CONDITION IS LIKE.
SHOULD I BUY SOME PET DIAPERS?
COME, LET'S GO FOR A WALK.
YOU STILL LOOK FINE,
BUT JUST IN CASE.
LET'S TAKE YOU TO THE DOCTOR THIS WEEK.
GOOD GIRL.
-END-

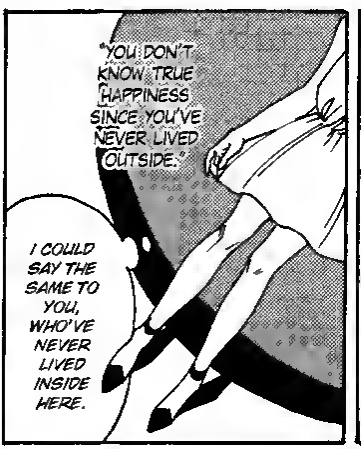

WHIRRR
ジュワ——
ゴォー
シャアアアア
ピピピピ
Autumn
ピ・ピーン
ピ・ピーン
ペた
ペた

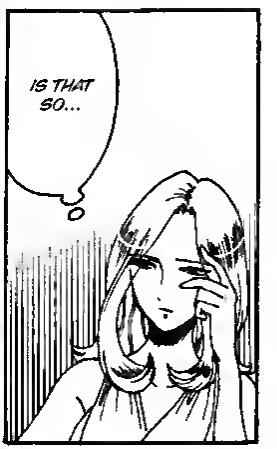

GIVE ME DINNER.
BEEP BEEP
KNOCK KNOCK

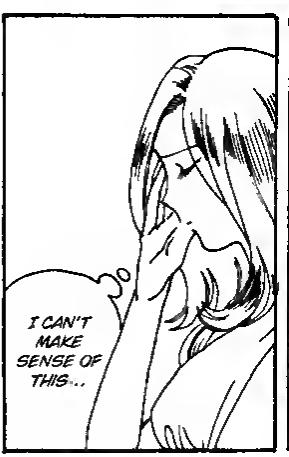
I DON'T NEED ANY SAVING.
YES YOU DO, YOU JUST DON'T REALIZE IT YET!
WE CAN SAVE YOU FROM HERE. WE'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO OUR VILLAGE.
WHY?
WOMAN!
COME WITH US!
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE FREE AND I'M NOT?
THAT'S RIGHT!
I "AM" FREE.
HOW!? IN WHAT WAY!?
YOU'RE JUST BEING KEPT AROUND BY THEM AS A PET!
COME WITH US, AND YOU CAN FINALLY BE FREE!
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW LOVE
HMM...
BUT I LIKE LIVING HERE AND LIKE EATING THE FOOD PREPARED FOR ME.
WE CAN GO WHEREVER WE WISH, EAT WHATEVER WE WISH, AND LIVE WITH WHOMEVER WE WISH
THAT'S WHAT FREEDOM IS



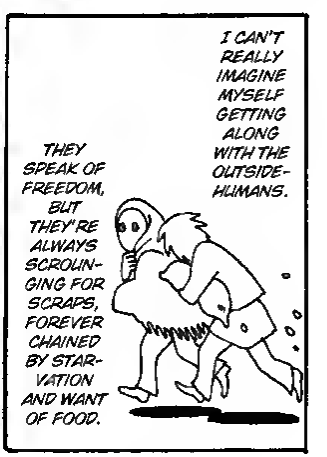

JUST WHAT IS LOVE, ANYWAYS?
DOES HAVING LOVE MEAN BEING HAPPY?

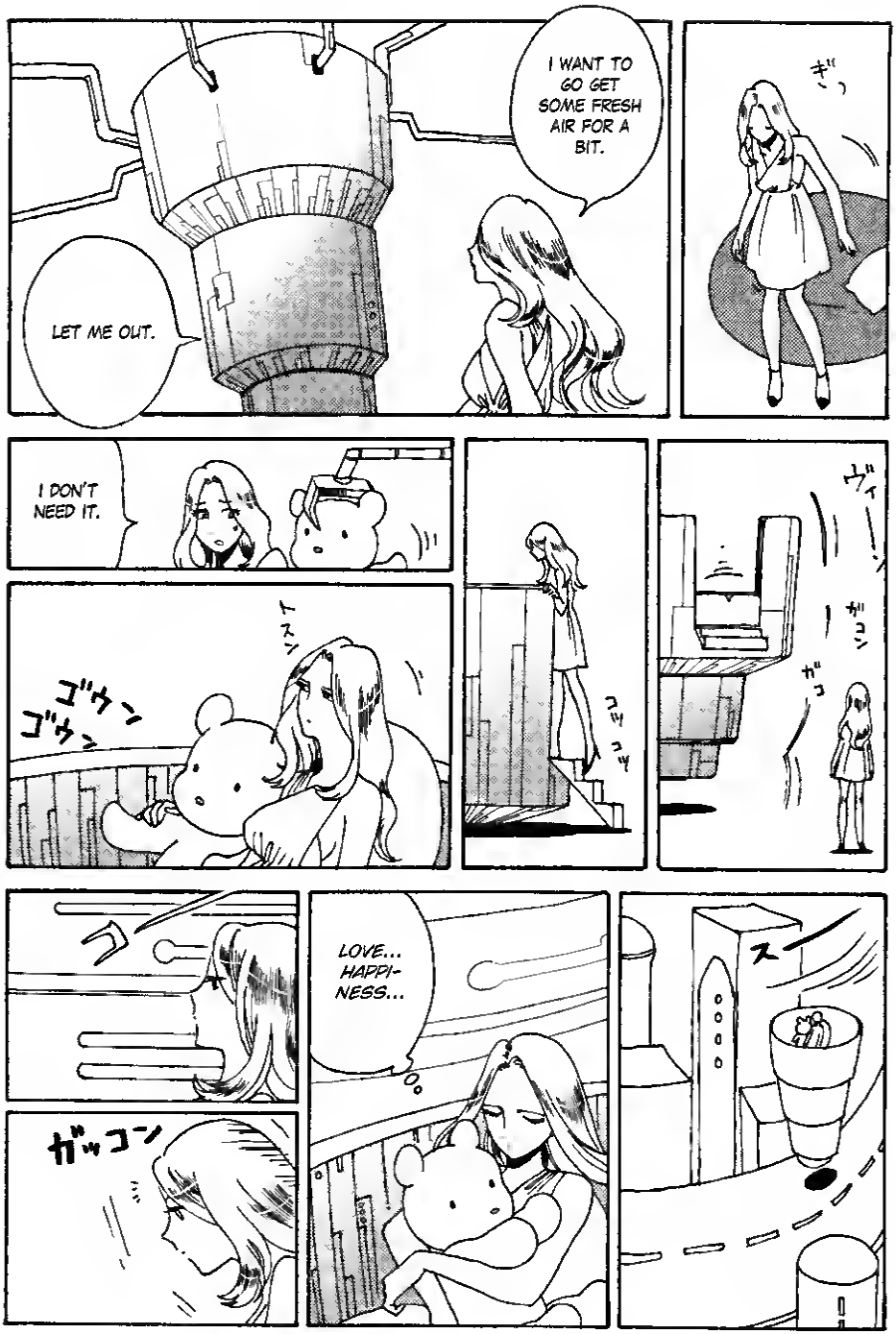

"YOU DON'T KNOW TRUE HAPPINESS SINCE YOU'VE NEVER LIVED OUTSIDE."
I COULD SAY THE SAME TO YOU, WHO'VE NEVER LIVED INSIDE HERE.

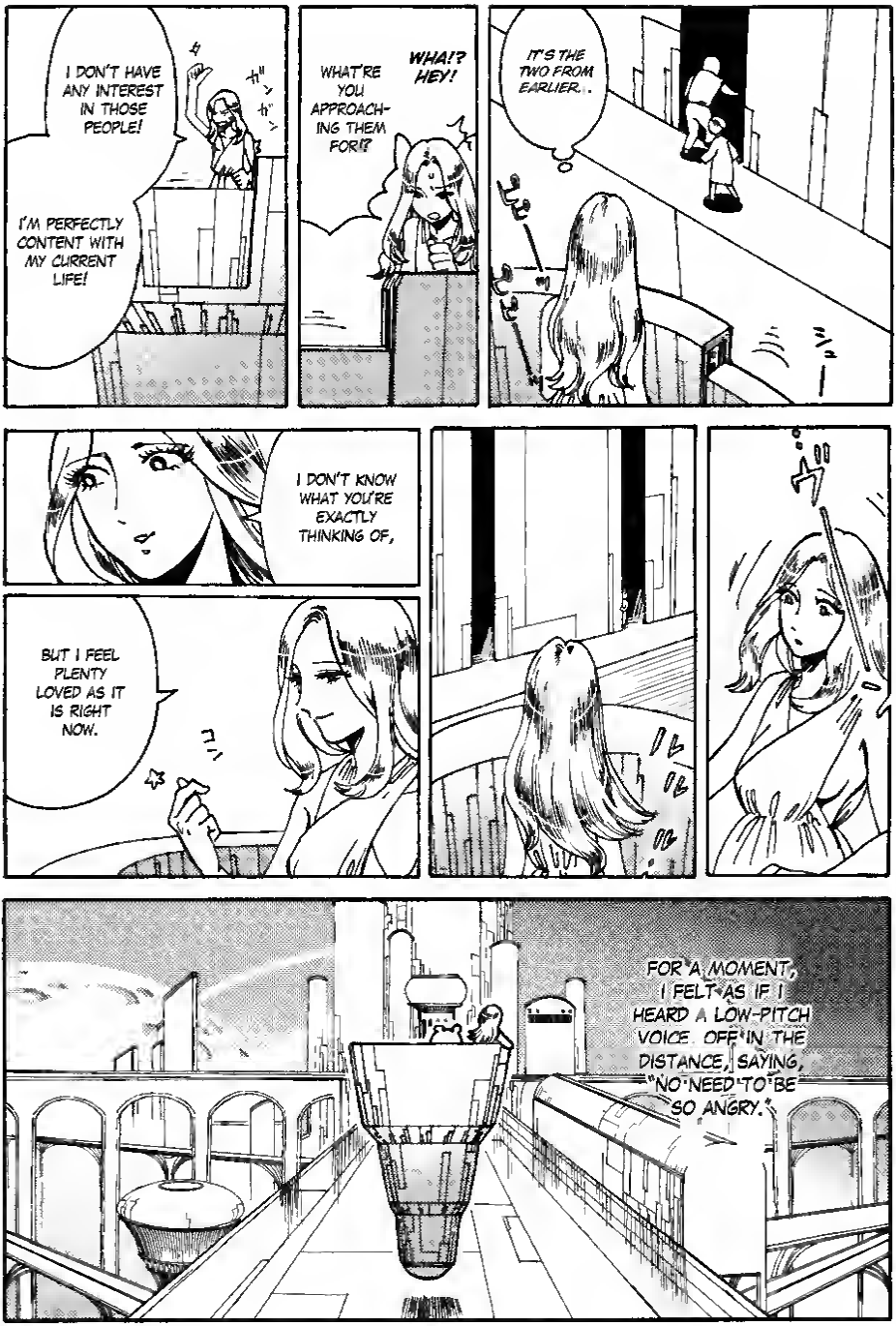

IS THAT SO...


I CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF THIS...

WOULD I BE ABLE TO OBTAIN LOVE IF I GO WITH THEM?
IS THAT WHAT HAPPINESS IS?


I CAN'T REALLY IMAGINE MYSELF GETTING ALONG WITH THE OUTSIDE-HUMANS.
THEY SPEAK OF FREEDOM, BUT THEY'RE ALWAYS SCROUNGING FOR SCRAPS, FOREVER CHAINED BY STARVATION AND WANT OF FOOD.


I WANT TO GO GET SOME FRESH AIR FOR A BIT.
LET ME OUT.
ぎっ
I DON'T NEED IT.
ゴウン ゴウン
トスン
コツ コツ
ヴィー
ガコン
ガコ
LOVE... HAPPI-NESS...
ガッコーン
ス

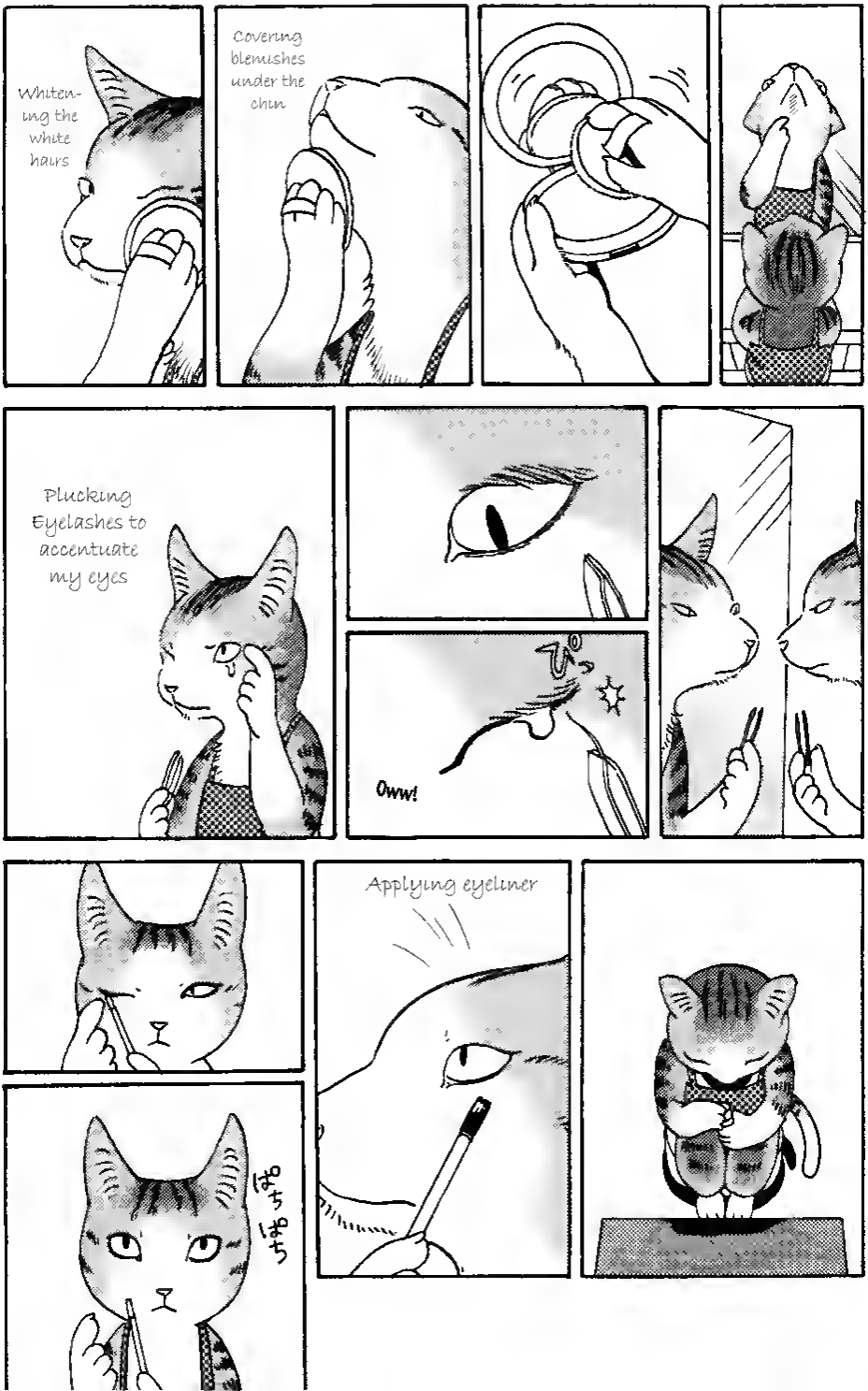

I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN THOSE PEOPLE!
I'M PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH MY CURRENT LIFE!
WHAT'RE YOU APPROACH-ING THEM FOR!?
WHA!? HEY!
IT'S THE TWO FROM EARLIER..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE EXACTLY THINKING OF,
BUT I FEEL PLENTY LOVED AS IT IS RIGHT NOW.
FOR A MOMENT, I FELT AS IF I HEARD A LOW-PITCH VOICE OFF IN THE DISTANCE, SAYING, "NO NEED TO BE SO ANGRY."

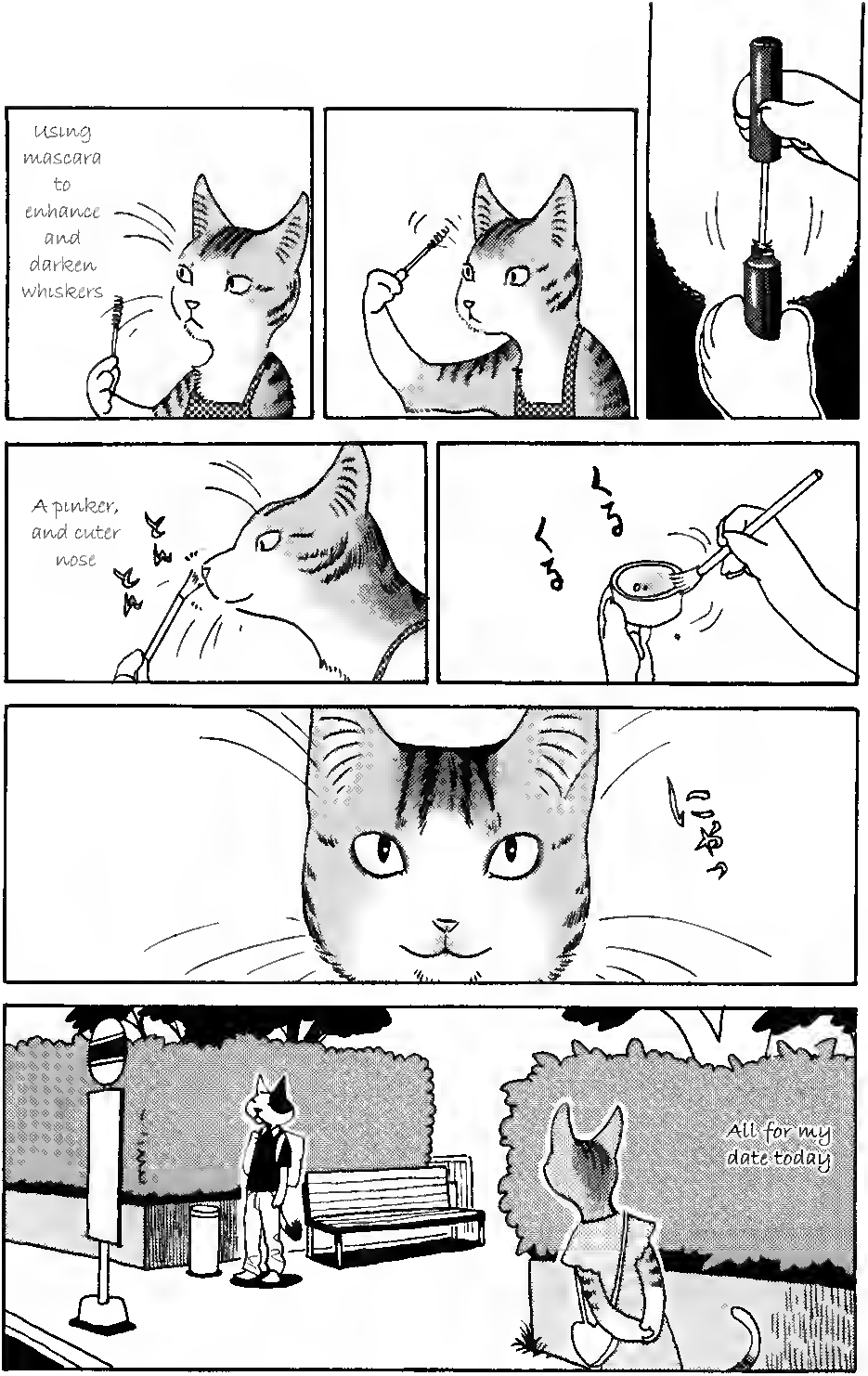
-END-

Food!
Food!

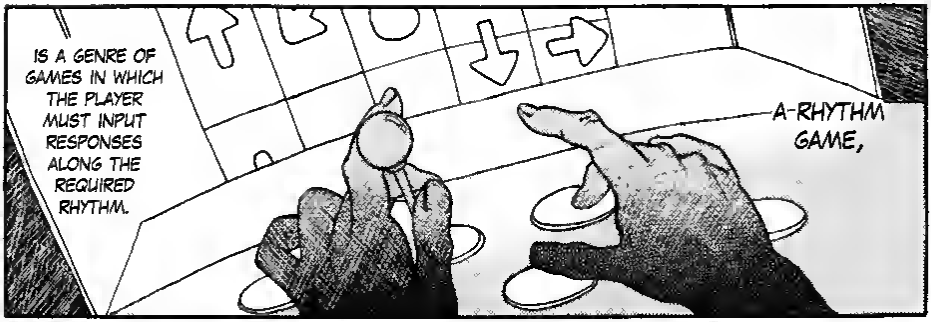
Wanting to be Cute
Face-washing
ごしごし
ぴた
ぴた
Face-care
ムロリ
ブォー

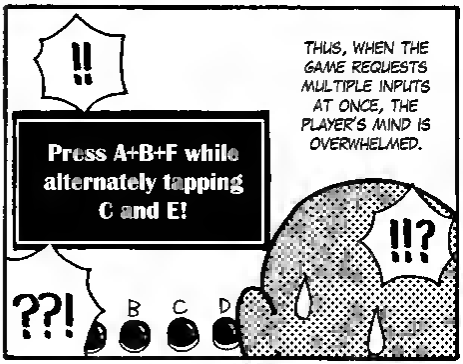
Trimming hair-ends for a cuter, small face
パッパッ
かちゃ
チョキ
チョキ
トスン
Getting rid of unwanted blackheads
Lining the ends of my nose with white to make it stand out
ちょん
ちょん
ちょん

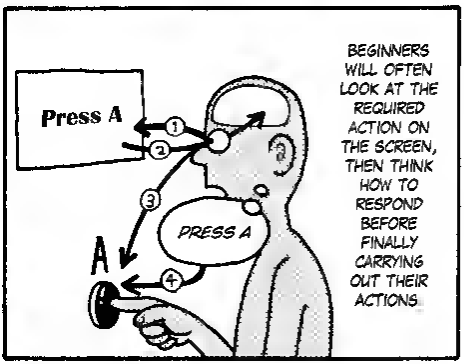

Whitening the white hairs
Covering blemishes under the chin
Plucking Eyelashes to accentuate my eyes
Oww!
Applying eyeliner

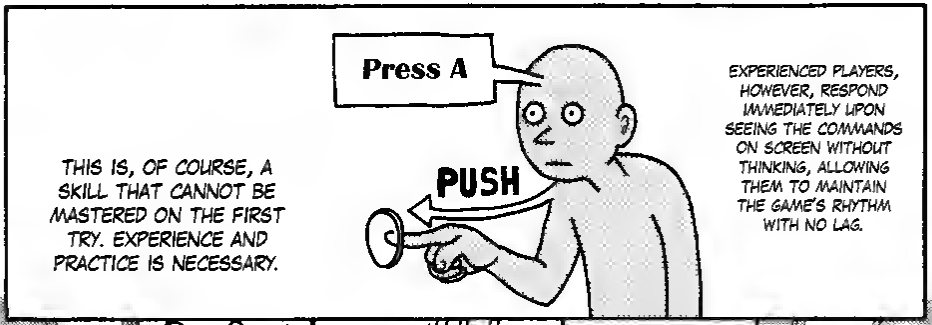

Using mascara to enhance and darken whiskers
A pinker, and cuter nose
All for my date today

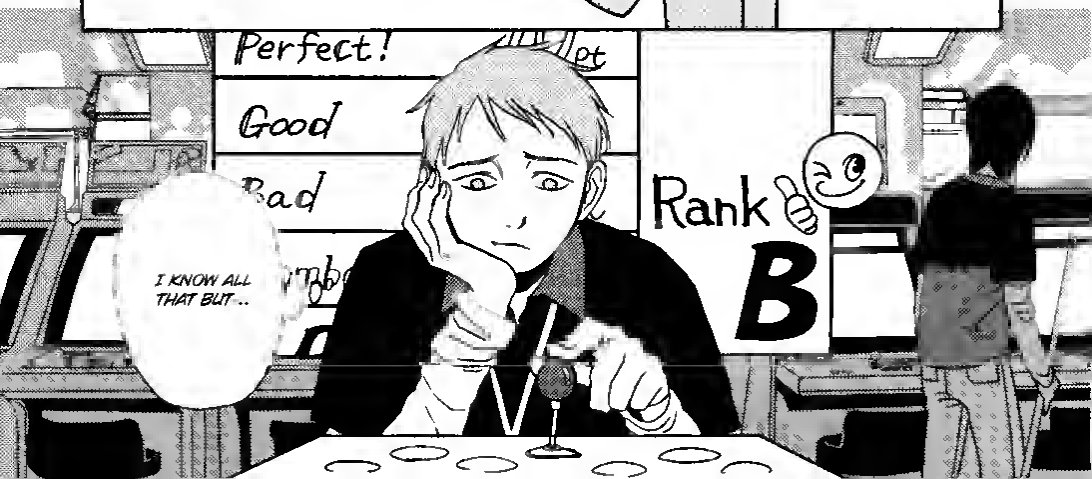
-END-

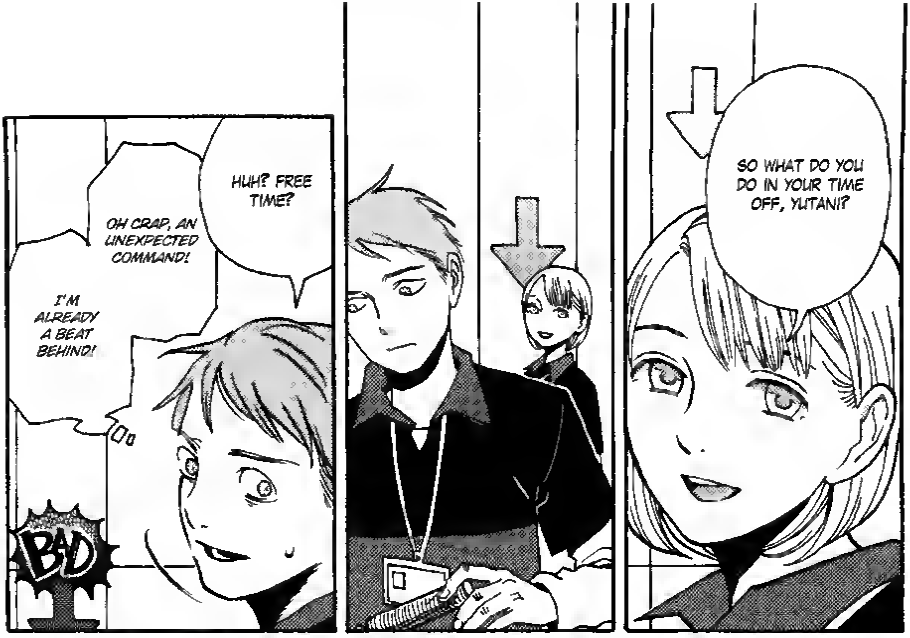

IS A GENRE OF GAMES IN WHICH THE PLAYER MUST INPUT RESPONSES ALONG THE REQUIRED RHYTHM.
A-RHYTHM GAME,

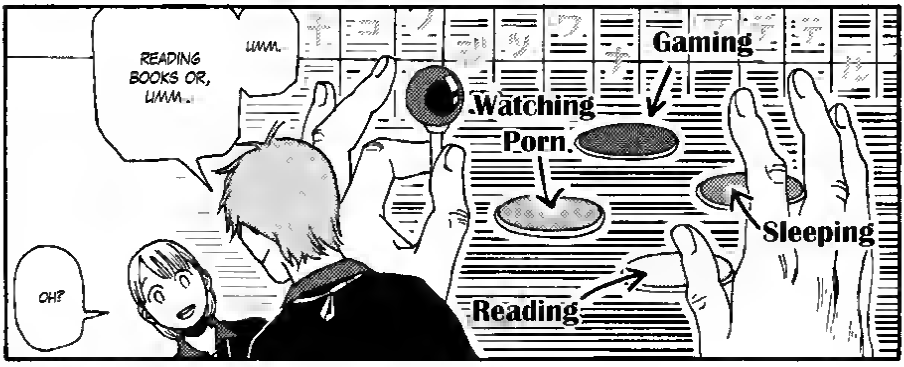

!!
Press A+B+F while alternately tapping C and E!
THUS, WHEN THE GAME REQUESTS MULTIPLE INPUTS AT ONCE, THE PLAYER'S MIND IS OVERWHELMED.
!!?
??!
B
C
D

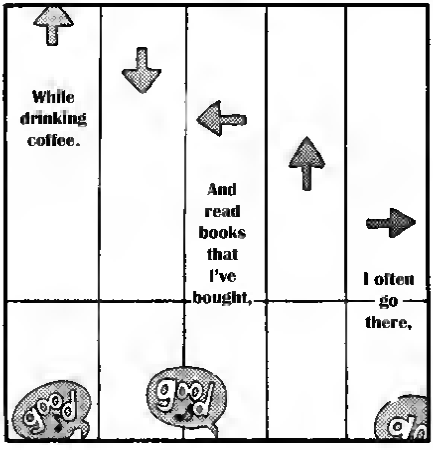

Press A
1
2
3
PRESS A
A
4
BEGINNERS WILL OFTEN LOOK AT THE REQUIRED ACTION ON THE SCREEN, THEN THINK HOW TO RESPOND BEFORE FINALLY CARRYING OUT THEIR ACTIONS.

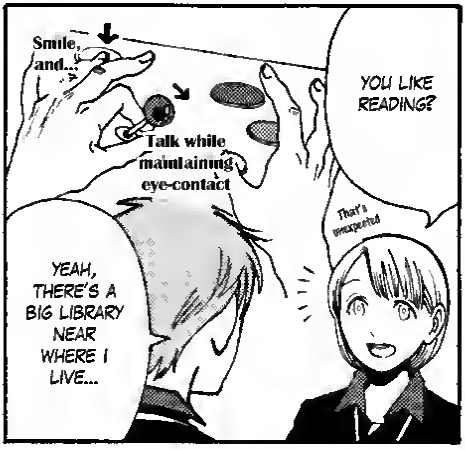

Press A
PUSH
THIS IS, OF COURSE, A SKILL THAT CANNOT BE MASTERED ON THE FIRST TRY. EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE IS NECESSARY.
EXPERIENCED PLAYERS, HOWEVER, RESPOND IMMEDIATELY UPON SEEING THE COMMANDS ON SCREEN WITHOUT THINKING, ALLOWING THEM TO MAINTAIN THE GAME'S RHYTHM WITH NO LAG.

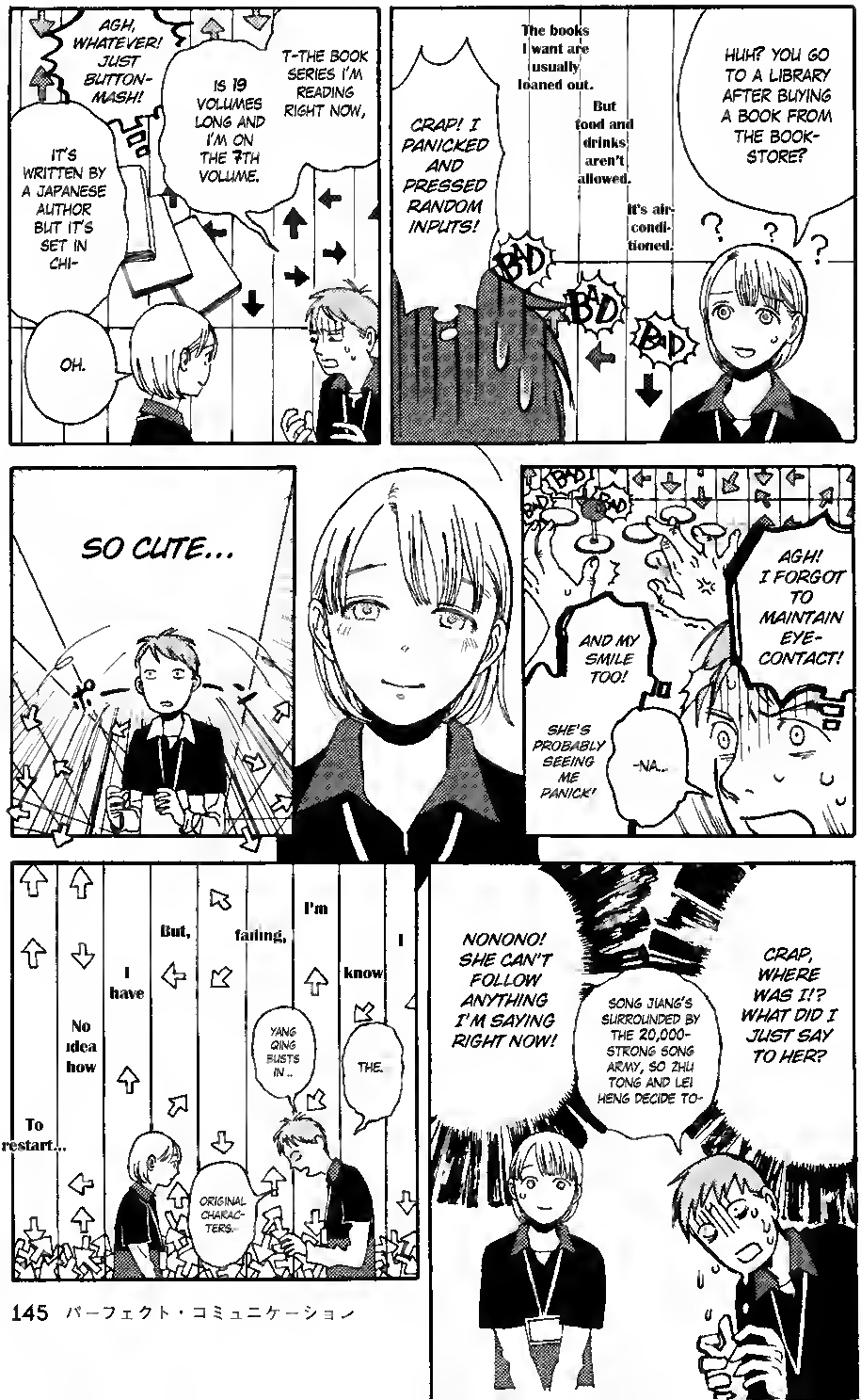

Perfect!
Good
Rank
B
I KNOW ALL THAT BUT...

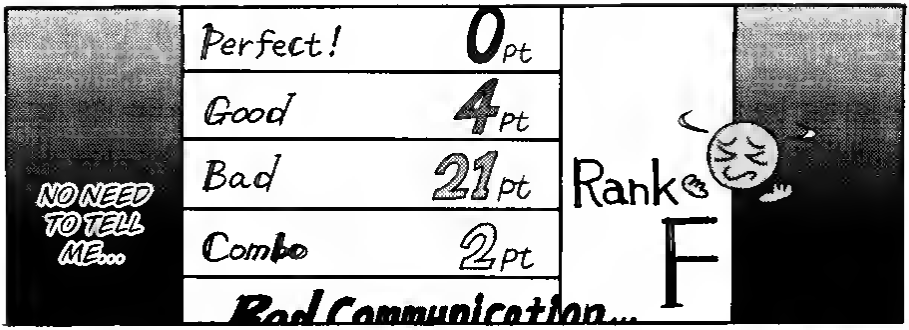

HUH? FREE TIME?
OH CRAP, AN UNEXPECTED COMMAND!
I'M ALREADY A BEAT BEHIND!
BAD
SO WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR TIME OFF, YUTANI?

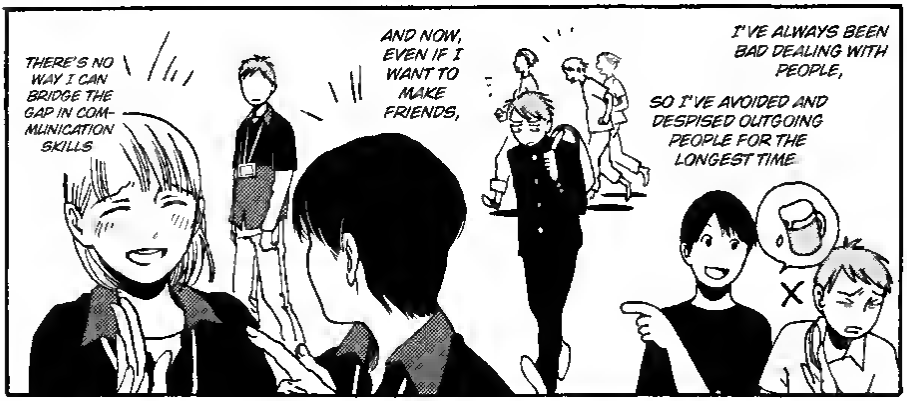

UMM.
READING BOOKS OR, UMM.
OH?
Gaming
Watching Porn.
Sleeping
Reading

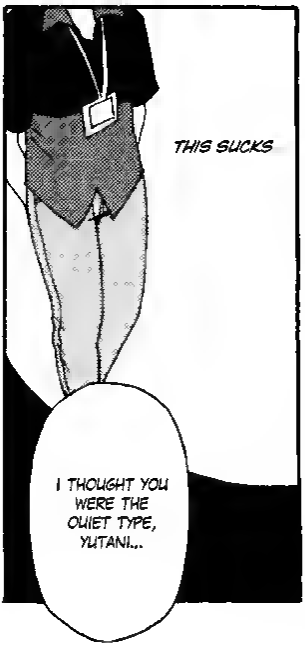

While drinking coffee.
And read books that I've bought,
I often go there,
good
good
good

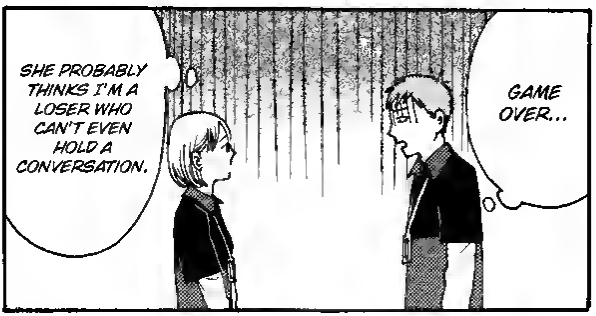

Smile, and...
Talk while maintaining eye-contact
YOU LIKE READING?
That's unexpected
YEAH, THERE'S A BIG LIBRARY NEAR WHERE I LIVE...

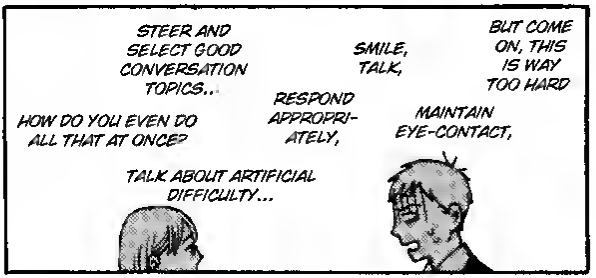

AGH, WHATEVER! JUST BUTTON-MASH!
IT'S WRITTEN BY A JAPANESE AUTHOR BUT IT'S SET IN CHI-
OH.
IS 19 VOLUMES LONG AND I'M ON THE 7TH VOLUME.
T-THE BOOK SERIES I'M READING RIGHT NOW,
CRAP! I PANICKED AND PRESSED RANDOM INPUTS!
The books I want are usually loaned out.
But food and drinks aren't allowed.
It's air-conditioned.
HUH? YOU GO TO A LIBRARY AFTER BUYING A BOOK FROM THE BOOK-STORE?
SO CUTE...
AGH! I FORGOT TO MAINTAIN EYE-CONTACT!
AND MY SMILE TOO!
SHE'S PROBABLY SEEING ME PANICK'
-NA...
No idea how
To restart...
I have
But,
faring,
I'm
I know
YANG QING BUSTS IN..
THE.
ORIGINAL CHARAC-TERS..
NONONO! SHE CAN'T FOLLOW ANYTHING I'M SAYING RIGHT NOW!
SONG JIANG'S SURROUNDED BY THE 20,000-STRONG SONG ARMY, SO ZHU TONG AND LEI HENG DECIDE TO-
CRAP, WHERE WAS I!? WHAT DID I JUST SAY TO HER?


NO NEED TO TELL ME...
Perfect! 0pt
Good 4pt
Bad 21pt
Combo 2pt
Bad Communication...
Rank F


THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BRIDGE THE GAP IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS
AND NOW, EVEN IF I WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS,
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BAD DEALING WITH PEOPLE,
SO I'VE AVOIDED AND DESPISED OUTGOING PEOPLE FOR THE LONGEST TIME


THIS SUCKS
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE QUIET TYPE, YUTANI...

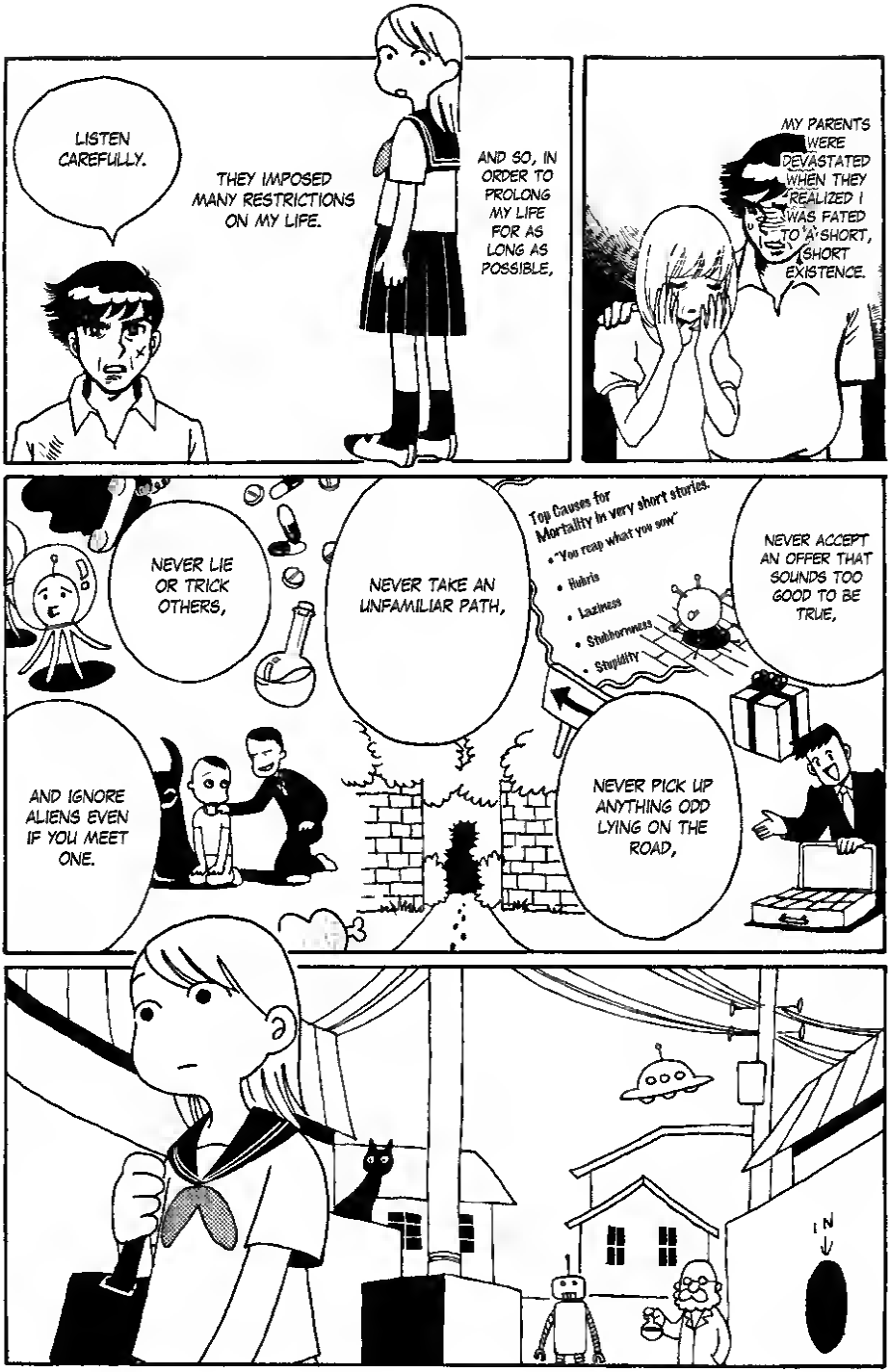

SHE PROBABLY THINKS I'M A LOSER WHO CAN'T EVEN HOLD A CONVERSATION.
GAME OVER...


STEER AND SELECT GOOD CONVERSATION TOPICS...
SMILE, TALK,
BUT COME ON, THIS IS WAY TOO HARD
RESPOND APPROPRIATELY,
HOW DO YOU EVEN DO ALL THAT AT ONCE?
MAINTAIN EYE-CONTACT,
TALK ABOUT ARTIFICIAL DIFFICULTY...

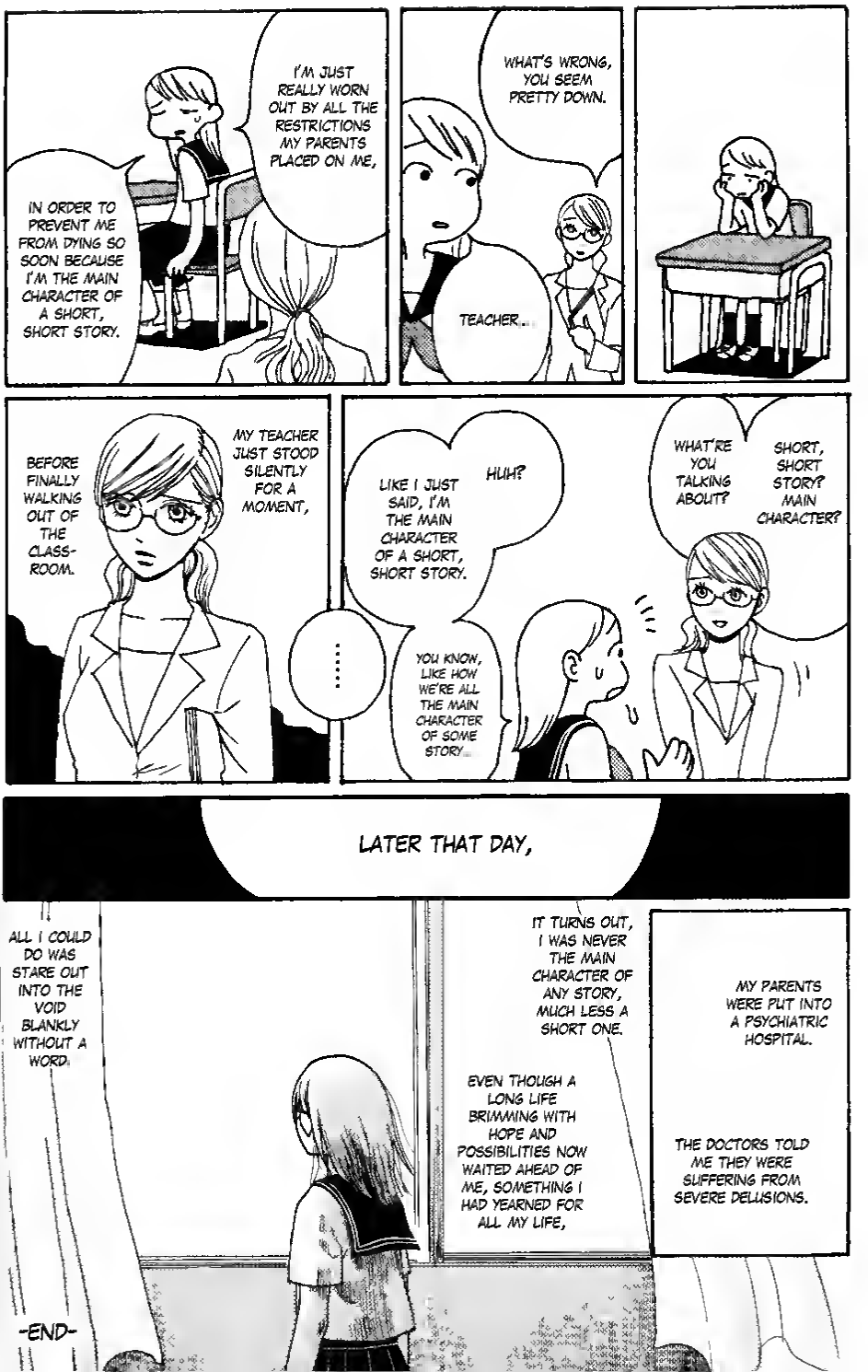
I'M SORT OF INTERESTED IN IT NOW!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD LEND ME THE BOOK YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT NEXT TIME, IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU
BUT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE MORE THE TYPE TO GET REALLY EXCITED WHEN IT COMES TO STUFF YOU LIKE
はっはーん
Rank F
...WAIT, WHAT?
I SEE NOW...
REAL HUMAN CONVER-SATIONS, DON'T REALLY GET JUDGED LIKE GAME SCORES.
OHH...
THIS IS WHAT I GET BY TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY...
SHE STILL HASN'T RETURNED MY BOOK
1 month later
I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE WHOLE APPEAL IN REAL-LIFE COMMUNICATION.
I THINK...
-END-

WE - YES EVEN YOU - ARE ALL THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF SOME STORY.
MY MOTHER'S THE CHEERFUL BUT SCATTER-BRAINED DITZ WHO GETS CAUGHT UP IN ONE LOVE TROUBLE AFTER ANOTHER,
MY FATHER IS THE HOT-BLOODED MALE WHO STAKED HIS YOUTH IN THE HARSH WORLD OF BOXING.
NO ONE WAS REALLY SURE WHAT KIND OF STORY I WAS THE MAIN CHARACTER OF.
AS FOR ME, THE YOUNGEST-BORN IN MY FAMILY,
His side-kick
AND MY BROTHER'S THE BOY-HERO BORN ONCE A MILLENIA WITH THE POWER TO EXORCISE EVIL SPIRITS
MY SISTER'S THE STRONG AND INDEPENDENT WOMAN WHO'LL LATER MAKE HER MARK AS FAMOUS NEWSCASTER,
BUT ONE THING WAS SURE. I WAS THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A VERY, VERY SHORT STORY.

A short, short story's main character


LISTEN CAREFULLY.
THEY IMPOSED MANY RESTRICTIONS ON MY LIFE.
AND SO, IN ORDER TO PROLONG MY LIFE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE,
MY PARENTS WERE DEVASTATED WHEN THEY REALIZED I WAS FATED TO A SHORT, SHORT EXISTENCE.
NEVER LIE OR TRICK OTHERS,
NEVER TAKE AN UNFAMILIAR PATH,
Top Causes for Mortality in very short stories.
• "You reap what you sow"
• Hubris
• Laziness
• Stubbornness
• Stupidity
NEVER ACCEPT AN OFFER THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE,
AND IGNORE ALIENS EVEN IF YOU MEET ONE.
NEVER PICK UP ANYTHING ODD LYING ON THE ROAD,
IN

I WALK AND I WALK...
YET THE EXIT ELUDES ME FOR ETERNITY.
OH NO YOU DON'T!
CULTURE FESTIVAL!?
WHO KNOWS IF THE HAUNTED HOUSE WON'T CONNECT TO THE REAL UNDERWORLD AND END UP KILLING YOU!?
YOU'RE HOME LATE! WHAT WERE YOU DOING!?
I HAD TO HELP OUT FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL PREPS.
I get the feeling that someone's looking at me...
WHO KNOWS IF SOME STRANGE OBJECT YOU BUY ON YOUR TRIP WILL GROW INTO SOMETHING MONSTROUS AND END UP KILLING YOU!?
CAN I HAVE SOME MONEY TO BUY STUFF ON MY SCHOOL TRIP?
SOUVENIRS!? NOT ON MY WATCH!
I'll show you around my planet.
WHO KNOWS IF SOME ALIEN WROTE THAT AND INTENDS TO DRAG YOU BACK TO HIS PLANET AND KILL YOU!?
A LOVE LETTER!?
BURN THAT AT ONCE!
はっ
WHAT'RE YOU BLUSHING ABOUT...?
NOOOO! STOP!
TEAR IT WITH NO REGRETS!
GAHA HAHA!


I'M JUST REALLY WORN OUT BY ALL THE RESTRICTIONS MY PARENTS PLACED ON ME,
IN ORDER TO PREVENT ME FROM DYING SO SOON BECAUSE I'M THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A SHORT, SHORT STORY.
WHAT'S WRONG, YOU SEEM PRETTY DOWN.
TEACHER...
MY TEACHER JUST STOOD SILENTLY FOR A MOMENT,
BEFORE FINALLY WALKING OUT OF THE CLASS-ROOM.
.....
HUH?
LIKE I JUST SAID, I'M THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A SHORT, SHORT STORY.
YOU KNOW, LIKE HOW WE'RE ALL THE MAIN CHARACTER OF SOME STORY...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHORT, SHORT STORY? MAIN CHARACTER?
LATER THAT DAY,
ALL I COULD DO WAS STARE OUT INTO THE VOID BLANKLY WITHOUT A WORD.
IT TURNS OUT, I WAS NEVER THE MAIN CHARACTER OF ANY STORY, MUCH LESS A SHORT ONE.
EVEN THOUGH A LONG LIFE BRIMMING WITH HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES NOW WAITED AHEAD OF ME, SOMETHING I HAD YEARNED FOR ALL MY LIFE,
MY PARENTS WERE PUT INTO A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL.
THE DOCTORS TOLD ME THEY WERE SUFFERING FROM SEVERE DELUSIONS.
-END-

SHE MIGHT BE TRAUMATIZED!
THAT'S WAY TOO TRAGIC.
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
Delusion End:
She was never a mai
HOW'S THAT FOR AN ENDING?
OF COURSE, WE WOULD NEED THE COOPERATION OF A FAIR NUMBER OF PEOPLE...
I'D RATHER STAGE A HAPPY ENDING IN WHICH SHE LEARNS SOME IMPORTANT LESSON.
I SAY,
INSTEAD OF ENDING ON AN ABSURD NOTE,
Umm...
DAD, STRINGING ALONG ONE PLOT TWIST AFTER ANOTHER DOES NOT A GOOD STORY MAKE.
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S WHY WE QUICKLY TELL HER IT WAS ALL A JOKE AFTER-WARDS.
IT SOUNDS TOO SIMPLE AND BORING.
EVEN WRITING A SHORT, SHORT STORY'S PRETTY HARD.
Sigh...
UMM.. MAYBE SOMETHING MORE ORIGINAL, TOUCHING, AND FUNNY TOO WHILE WE'RE AT IT.
YOU MEAN LIKE A MORAL?
FAMILIES STICK TOGETHER?
YOU AND YOUR IDEAS..

-END-

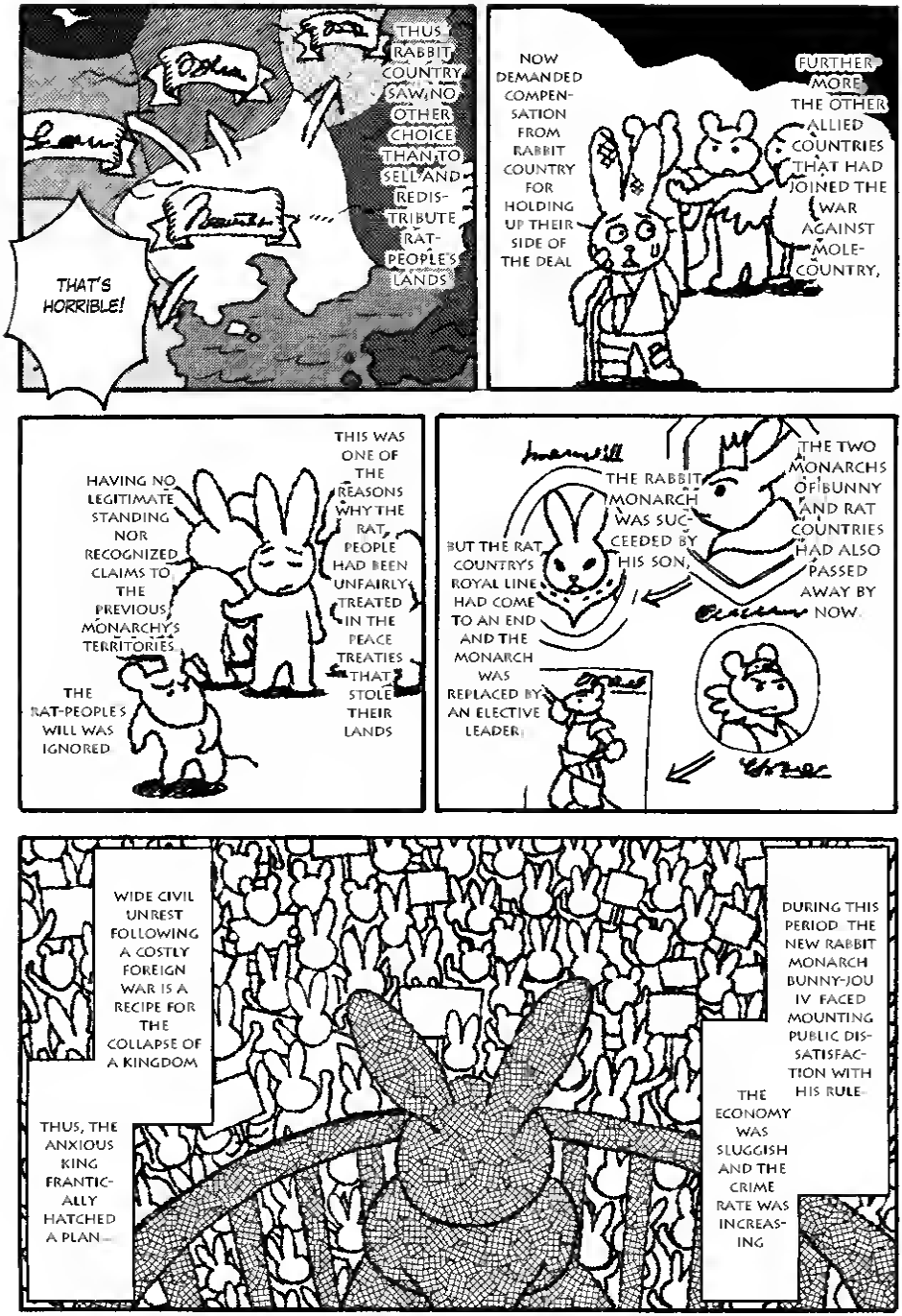
Distant Utopia

Bunny-People
Rat-People
SO FOR THE PICTURE STORY SHOW WE'RE PRESENTING AT THE NEXT SCHOOL EXCHANGE MEETING.
THE TOPIC WILL BE BULLYING, PERSECUTION, AND DISCRIMINATION.
WHERE THE BUNNY-PEOPLE BULLIED THE RAT-PEOPLE AND...
HEY! YOU BOYS NEED TO HELP OUT WITH THE STORY TOO!
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A PLACE CALLED ANIMAL-LAND...
UMM...
SO GET INTO YOUR GROUPS AND START BRAIN-STORMING.
Mhmm...
Yeah, yeah...
YOUR GOAL'S NOT JUST TO SHOW DISCRIMINATION IS BAD,
BUT WHY IT'S BAD AND HOW WE CAN POSSIBLY SOLVE IT.
SO KEEP THAT IN MIND WHILE COMING UP WITH YOUR STORIES!
RIGHT, SINCE WE'RE TRYING TO SHOW THAT DISCRIMINATION IS BAD...
Oh, ok
MAYBE WE SHOULD MAKE THE BUNNY-PEOPLE LOOK MORE EVIL?
WHAT THE HELL'S A BUNNY-PEOPLE?

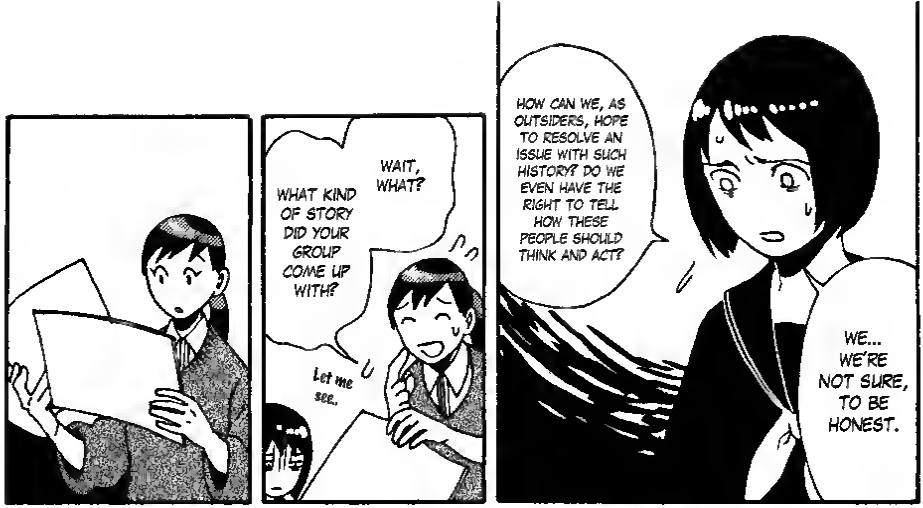
BUT...
Grrr...
OOH, THEY'RE SO EVIL!
HOW DESPICABLE!
The bunny-people worked the rat-people unfairly hard,
Mocked them for how they smelled and even threw rocks at them
THE BUNNY COUNTRY IS SURROUNDED BY STEEP MOUNTAINS!
'CAUSE...
'CAUSE OF THIS!
Bunny Country
WHY...?
Umm...
THEY CAN'T.
WHY DON'T THE RAT-PEOPLE CALL FOR HELP OR TRY TO RUN AWAY?
WHY NOT?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE MOUNTAINS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TO ENTER AND LEAVE BUNNY COUNTRY?
BY THE BUNNY-PEOPLE, MAYBE?
UMM. THEIR COUNTRY WAS DESTROYED.
WAIT, BUNNY COUNTRY? SO THIS ISN'T THE RAT-PEOPLE'S NATIVE COUNTRY?
Yay. question solved!
THAT'S WHY THEY CAN'T RUN AWAY OR CALL FOR HELP.

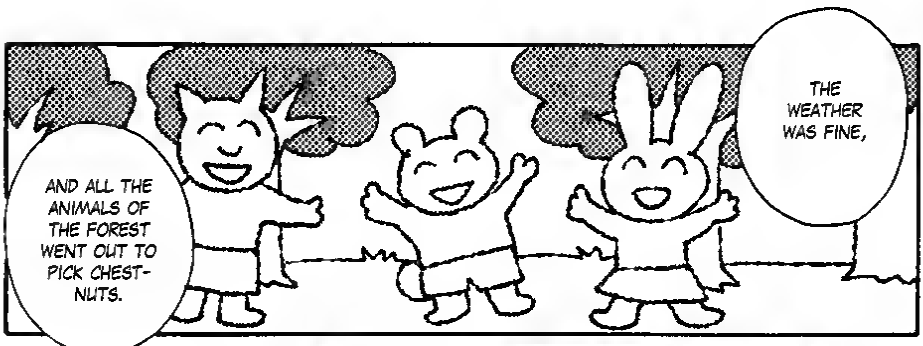
West
THE RAT-PEOPLE WERE FORCED OUT OF THEIR LANDS AND FLED WEST...
SO THE MOLE-PEOPLE ARE FROM THE EAST?
A 3RD COUNTRY?
THE MOLE-PEOPLE HAD BEEN EYEING THE FERTILE LANDS OF RAT COUNTRY FOR A LONG TIME.
!!
RAT COUNTRY FELL TO A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM MOLE COUNTRY.
Come to our country.
SO THE BUNNY-PEOPLE WILLINGLY ACCEPTED THE RAT-PEOPLE IN AS REFUGEES?
YEAH, IT MAKES SENSE THEY HAD THE BUNNY-PEOPLE'S CONSENT, SINCE IT'S HARD TO NORMALLY ENTER THEIR COUNTRY.
OKAY, SO THE RAT-PEOPLE FLED WEST INTO BUNNY COUNTRY...
WAS THAT THE DISCOVERY OF PLENTIFUL COAL DEPOSITS SEVERAL YEARS PRIOR HAD LED TO INTENSE MINING AND COAL BURNING, WHICH WREAKED HAVOC ON THE ENV-
THE REASON WHY MOLE-COUNTRY'S LANDS HAD INFERTILE SOIL,
AND FORMALLY SIGNED THE GESH-ALLIANCE IN YEAR 103 OF HONU CALENDAR
THE BUNNY COUNTRY'S MONARCH AND THE FORMER MONARCH OF THE NOW CONQUERED RAT COUNTRY JOINED HANDS.
THE TWO PEOPLES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BAND TOGETHER AGAINST A COMMON THREAT
AFTER CONQUERING RAT-COUNTRY IT WOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE MOLE-COUNTRY SET ITS SIGHT ON INVADING BUNNY COUNTRY AS WELL.

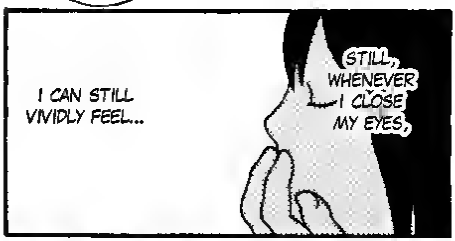
THE MOLE-COUNTRY WAS A SUPER-POWER DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME.
BUT FAILED MISERABLY
THE RABBIT-PEOPLE AND RAT-PEOPLE BANDED TOGETHER TO DEEEAT THE MOLE PEOPLE
BUT THEN HOW DID THE BUNNY-PEOPLE COME TO BULLY THE RAT-PEOPLE?
OK, THAT'S ALL GOOD,
BUT IT IS NOW YEAR 132. SEVERAL DECADES HAVE PASSED SINCE THE BUNNY-PEOPLE AND RAT-PEOPLE ENTERED INTO AN ALLIANCE.
AND FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN CURBING MOLE-COUNTRY'S AGGRESSIVE EXPANSIONISM.
THUS, THE BUNNY-PEOPLE AND RAT-PEOPLE SOUGHT OUT ALLIANCES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.
THEY LACKED THE STRENGTH TO DEFFND THEIR LANDS WHICH SHARED A DANGEROUS BORDER WITH MOLE-COUNTRY WHO HAD BEEN BEATEN BACK FOR NOW BUT WERE HARDLY IN A POSITION OF WEAKNESS
PART OF THE REASON WAS THAT SINCE THE RAT-PEOPLE'S POPULATION HAD DWINDLED TO LESS THAN HALF OF THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBERS BEFORE THE INVASION
UNFORTU NATELY THE RAT-PEOPLE'S HOMELANDS WERE NEVER RETURNED TO THEM
WEREN'T THE RAT-PEOPLE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME-LANDS?
W-WHAT HAPPENED?


THUS, RABBIT COUNTRY SAW NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO SELL AND REDISTRIBUTE RAT-PEOPLE'S LANDS
THAT'S HORRIBLE!
NOW DEMANDED COMPENSATION FROM RABBIT COUNTRY FOR HOLDING UP THEIR SIDE OF THE DEAL
FURTHERMORE, THE OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES THAT HAD JOINED THE WAR AGAINST MOLE-COUNTRY,
HAVING NO LEGITIMATE STANDING NOR RECOGNIZED CLAIMS TO THE PREVIOUS MONARCHY'S TERRITORIES
THE RAT-PEOPLE'S WILL WAS IGNORED
THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE RAT PEOPLE HAD BEEN UNFAIRLY TREATED IN THE PEACE TREATIES THAT STOLE THEIR LANDS
THE RABBIT MONARCH WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS SON,
BUT THE RAT COUNTRY'S ROYAL LINE HAD COME TO AN END AND THE MONARCH WAS REPLACED BY AN ELECTIVE LEADER.
THE TWO MONARCHS OF BUNNY AND RAT COUNTRIES HAD ALSO PASSED AWAY BY NOW.
WIDE CIVIL UNREST FOLLOWING A COSTLY FOREIGN WAR IS A RECIPE FOR THE COLLAPSE OF A KINGDOM
THUS, THE ANXIOUS KING FRANTICALLY HATCHED A PLAN—
DURING THIS PERIOD THE NEW RABBIT MONARCH BUNNY-JOU IV FACED MOUNTING PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS RULE.
THE ECONOMY WAS SLUGGISH AND THE CRIME RATE WAS INCREASING

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
OHH...
THE PLAN WORKED AND THE BUNNY-PEOPLE WERE EASILY CONVINCED THAT THE CAUSE OF ALL THEIR PROBLEMS WERE ROOTED IN THESE TWO DEGENERATE RACES
A PLAN TO ENSLAVE THE MOLE-PEOPLE AND RAT-PEOPLE!
THEY WERE CONVENIENT SCAPEGOATS, FOR THEIR LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS MADE MANY OF THEM LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIME
STILL, OLD HABITS DIE HARD AND THE DISCRIMINATION OF RAT-PEOPLE REMAINS A HOT ISSUE EVEN TODAY
THE NEW REGIME CONTINUED THE SLAVERY OF RAT-PEOPLE FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS, BEFORE FINALLY COMING TO AN END AFTER WIDE PROTESTS OUT OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS
WAS ASSASSINATED THE NEXT YEAR BY REVOLUTIONARIES.
ALTHOUGH BUNNY-JOU IV, THE KING WHO HAD SPEARHEADED THIS VILLIFICATION CAMPAIGN
HOW DID THE PEOPLE IN YOUR STORY SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF DISCRIMINATION?
SO HAVE YOU GUYS FINISHED YOUR STORY?
...


WAIT, WHAT?
WHAT KIND OF STORY DID YOUR GROUP COME UP WITH?
Let me see..
HOW CAN WE, AS OUTSIDERS, HOPE TO RESOLVE AN ISSUE WITH SUCH HISTORY? DO WE EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO TELL HOW THESE PEOPLE SHOULD THINK AND ACT?
WE... WE'RE NOT SURE, TO BE HONEST.


AND ALL THE ANIMALS OF THE FOREST WENT OUT TO PICK CHESTNUTS.
THE WEATHER WAS FINE,

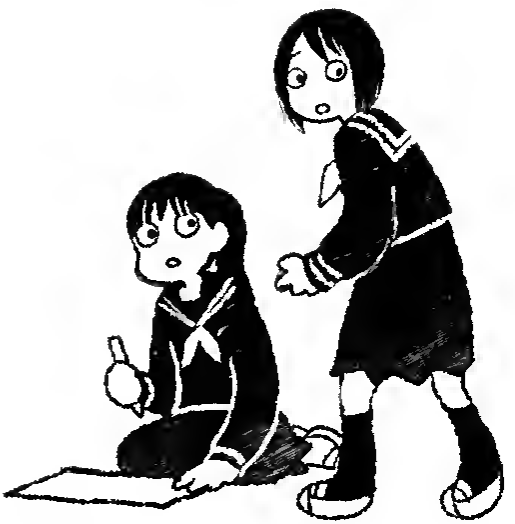

I CAN STILL VIVIDLY FEEL...
STILL, WHENEVER I CLOSE MY EYES,

TRYING TO MAKE IT IN ANIMAL-LAND...
THE JOYS, ANGER, AND GRIEF OF THOUSANDS OR MILLIONS OF LIVING, BREATHING ANIMAL-PEOPLES,

THE COMPLEX AND DEPRESSING WORLD WE HAD COME UP WITH WAS TOSSED ASIDE,
IN FAVOUR OF A SHALLOW AND INSIPID, BUT PEACEFUL WORLD.

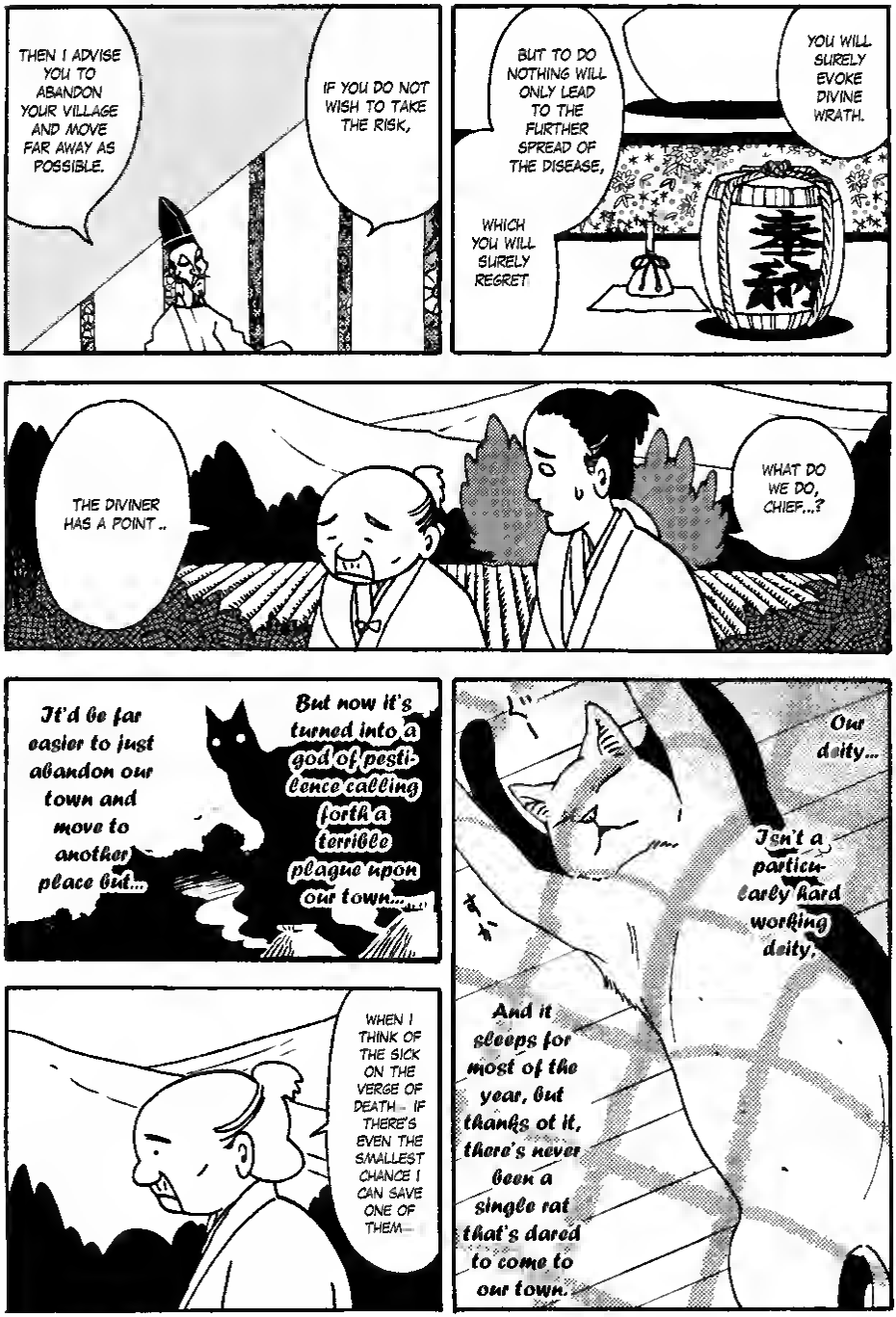
"OWW!"
THE RABBIT ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED THE CHESTNUT AND HURT THE MOUSE...
AND SO,

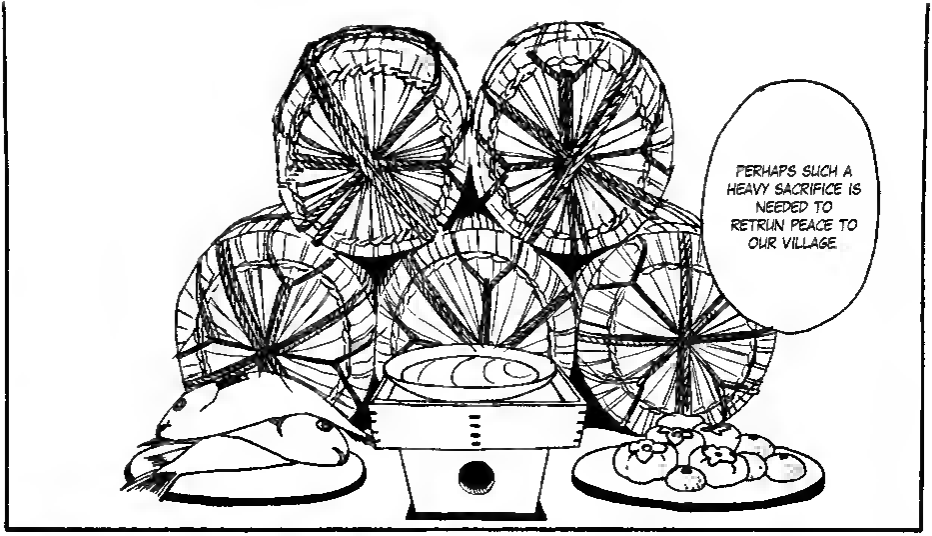
-END-

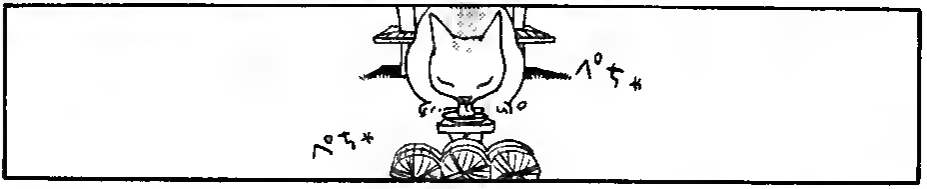


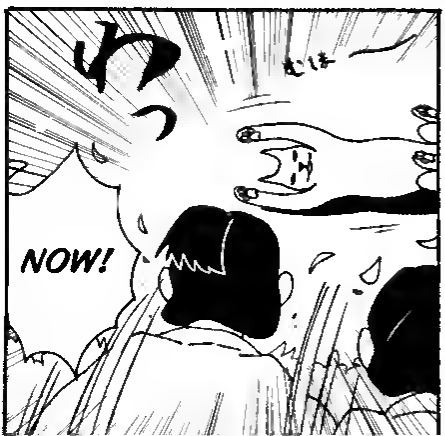
Long, long ago, there spread a mysterious disease in the town of Nadegata.
Those afflicted would develop red swells all over their bodies and run high fevers.
No doctor nor any of their concocted medicines could treat the disease.
But just as the sick were on the verge of passing away, the cause of the disease was found.
In a neglected corner of the village stood an old shrine.
It was the resting place to a local deity that had protected the town for over two centuries.
According to a diviner from the capital, the disease afflicting the town had been invited by this deity.
神のみぞ知る

MIX THIS WITH CATNIP AND MAKE AN OFFERING.
THIS IS A SPECIAL WINE MADE FROM THE ROOTS OF A 100 YEAR-OLD SACRED TREE.
YOU WILL STRIKE ITS BODY WITH HARDENED RAKES!
THEN!
ONCE THE GOD FALLS DEEP ASLEEP FROM DRINKING IT,
YOU MUST DRAG IT OUT FROM ITS SHRINE,
AND PLUNGE ITS BODY UNDER-WATER!
C-CAN DOING SUCH A TERRIBLE THING BE CONSIDERED RIGHT...?
OF COURSE NOT!
ごくり
AND TO FINISH IT ALL OFF...
APPLY THIS POISON... TO ITS SHOULDERS,
AND IT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF...

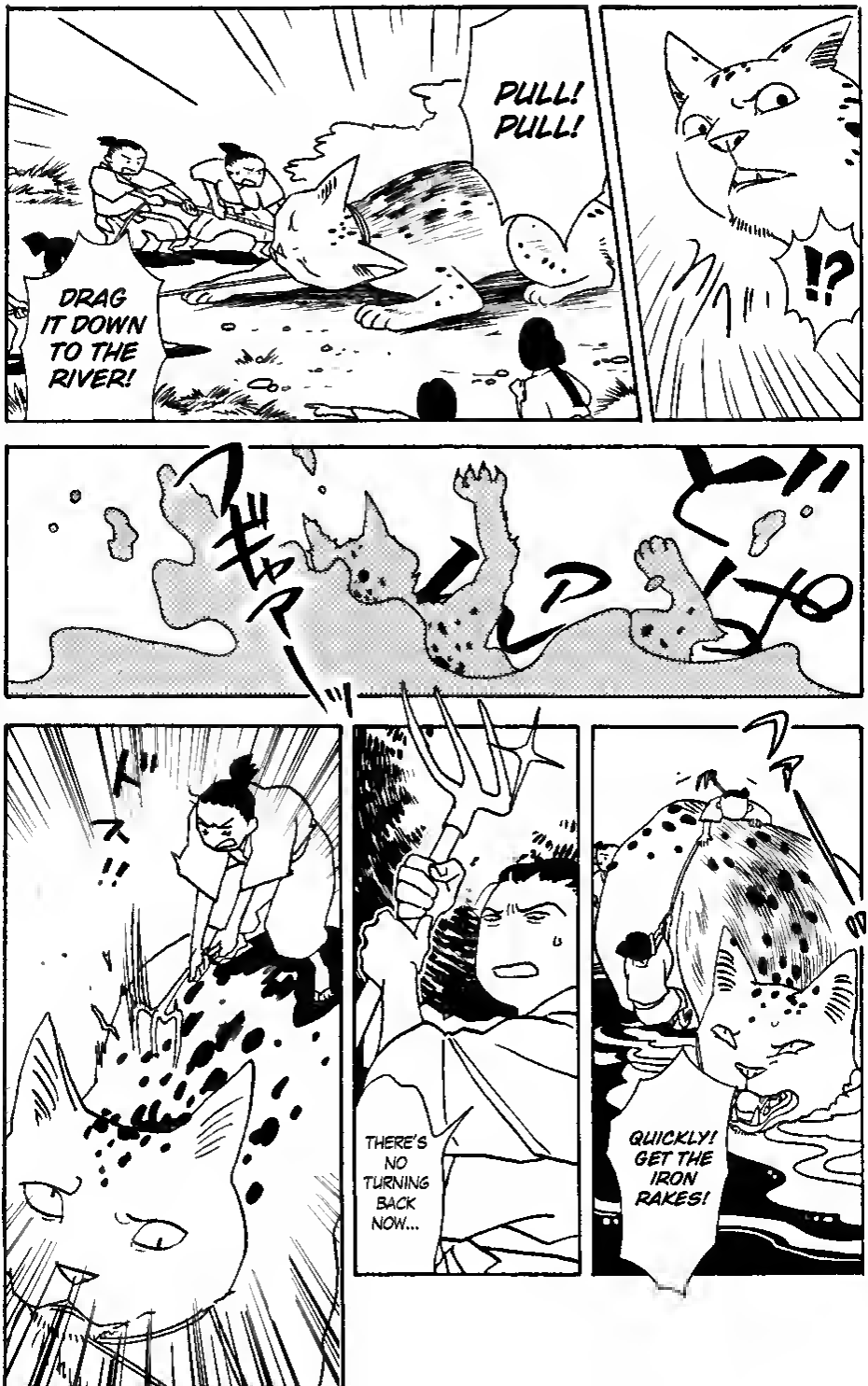

THEN I ADVISE YOU TO ABANDON YOUR VILLAGE AND MOVE FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TAKE THE RISK,
BUT TO DO NOTHING WILL ONLY LEAD TO THE FURTHER SPREAD OF THE DISEASE,
WHICH YOU WILL SURELY REGRET
YOU WILL SURELY EVOKE DIVINE WRATH.
奉納
THE DIVINER HAS A POINT..
WHAT DO WE DO, CHIEF...?
It'd be far easier to just abandon our town and move to another place but...
But now it's turned into a god of pestilence calling forth a terrible plague upon our town...
Our deity...
Isn't a particularly hard working deity.
And it sleeps for most of the year, but thanks ot it, there's never been a single rat that's dared to come to our town.
WHEN I THINK OF THE SICK ON THE VERGE OF DEATH— IF THERE'S EVEN THE SMALLEST CHANCE I CAN SAVE ONE OF THEM—

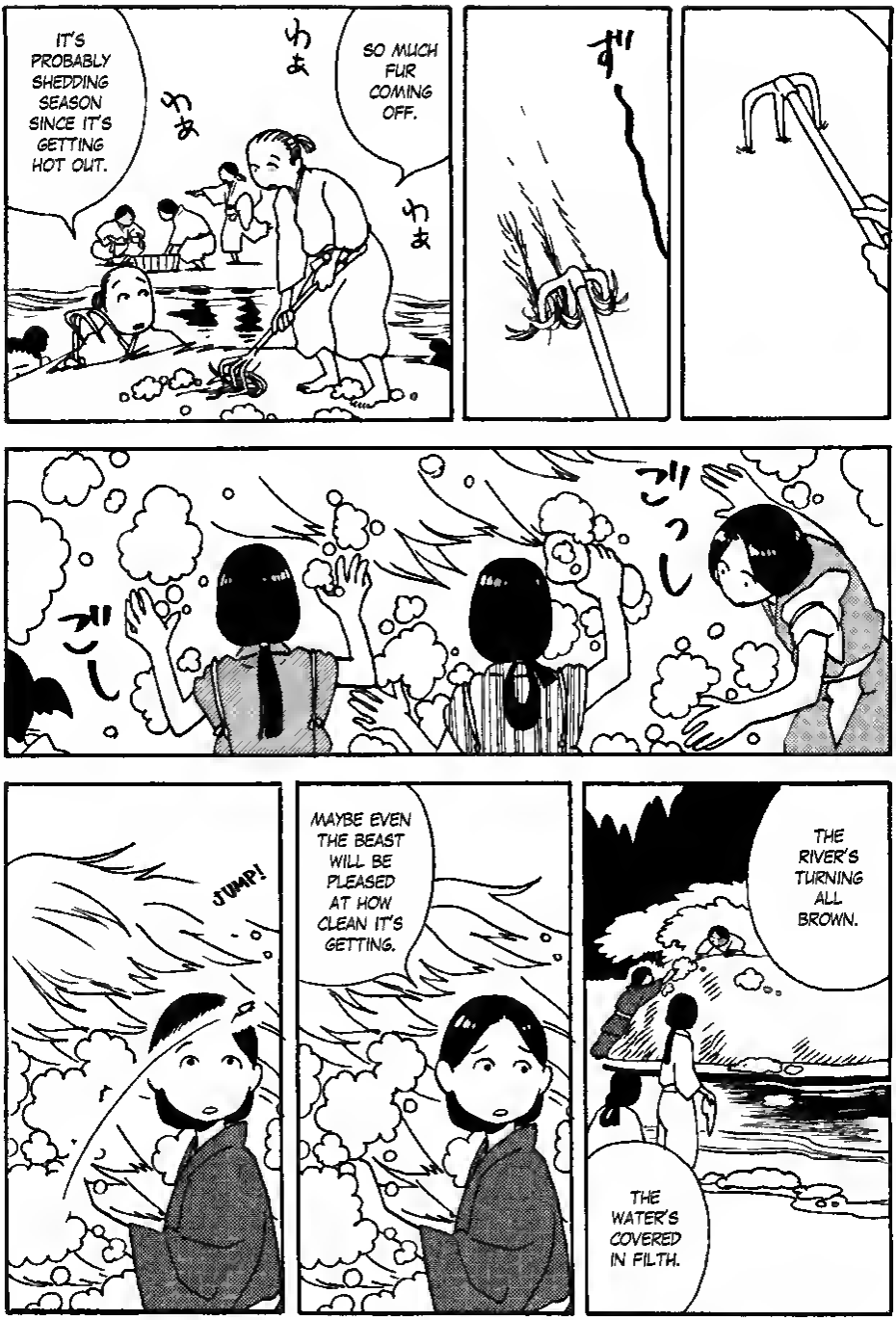

PERHAPS SUCH A HEAVY SACRIFICE IS NEEDED TO RETRUN PEACE TO OUR VILLAGE




NOW!

IT SHOULD PASS OUT VERY SOON NOW...
GET READY TO POUNCE ON MY SIGNAL...


PULL! PULL!
DRAG IT DOWN TO THE RIVER!
!?
ギャー!!
ドス!!
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW...
QUICKLY! GET THE IRON RAKES!


IT'S PROBABLY SHEDDING SEASON SINCE IT'S GETTING HOT OUT.
わあ
わあ
SO MUCH FUR COMING OFF.
わあ
ず
ごし
ごし
JUMP!
MAYBE EVEN THE BEAST WILL BE PLEASED AT HOW CLEAN IT'S GETTING.
THE RIVER'S TURNING ALL BROWN.
THE WATER'S COVERED IN FILTH.

THESE FLEAS WHICH DRINK THE BLOOD OF GODS,
ARE NOT ONLY LARGER IN SIZE, BUT THE SAME GOES FOR THEIR BITES AS WELL!
EVERYONE, BE CAREFUL!
I think it went down my back!
FLEAS!
THERE ARE GIANT FLEAS HIDING IN IT'S FUR!
LET'S FINISH WASHING THE BEAST WHILE IT'S STILL DROWSY FROM THE WINE.
SO ALL OUR SWELLING WAS CAUSED BY THESE FLEAS?
NO WONDER NONE OF THE DOCTORS COULD HELP...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THE SPOTS ON THE BEAST WERE JUST PLAIN DIRT AND FILTH...
おぉお

And so,
CHIEF, IT'S TIME TO APPLY THE POISON...
YES...
As for the town's deity...
The illness that plagued the town slowly subsided.
And when it woke up,
It had already forgotten what it had been so angry about.
It decided to take a nap, tired from all the clawing
But having been removed of all its fleas, it had its first deep sleep in a long while.
It was enraged,
And clawed the roof of its shrine.
Just when it thought of clawing the homes of the villagers as well,

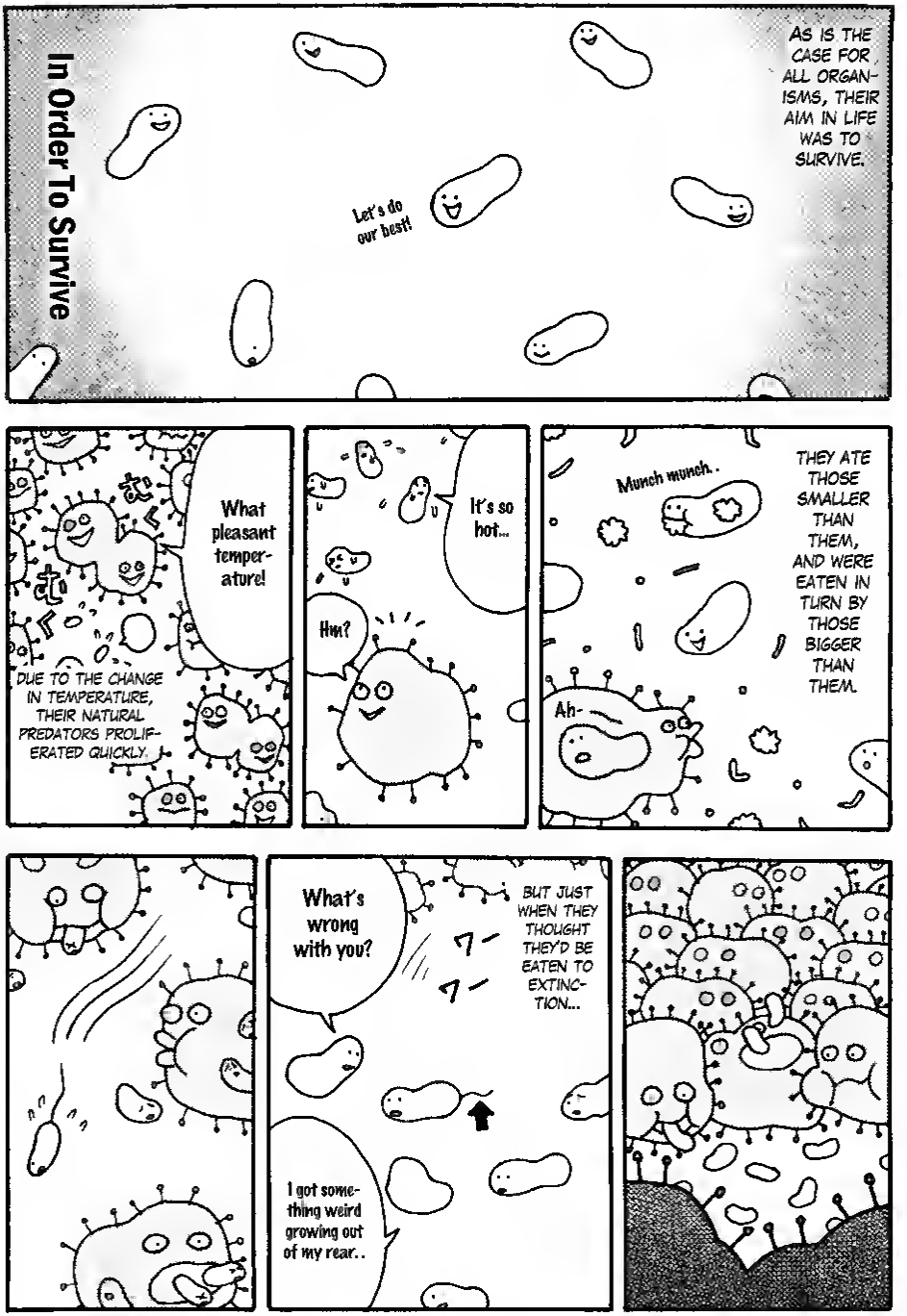
-END-

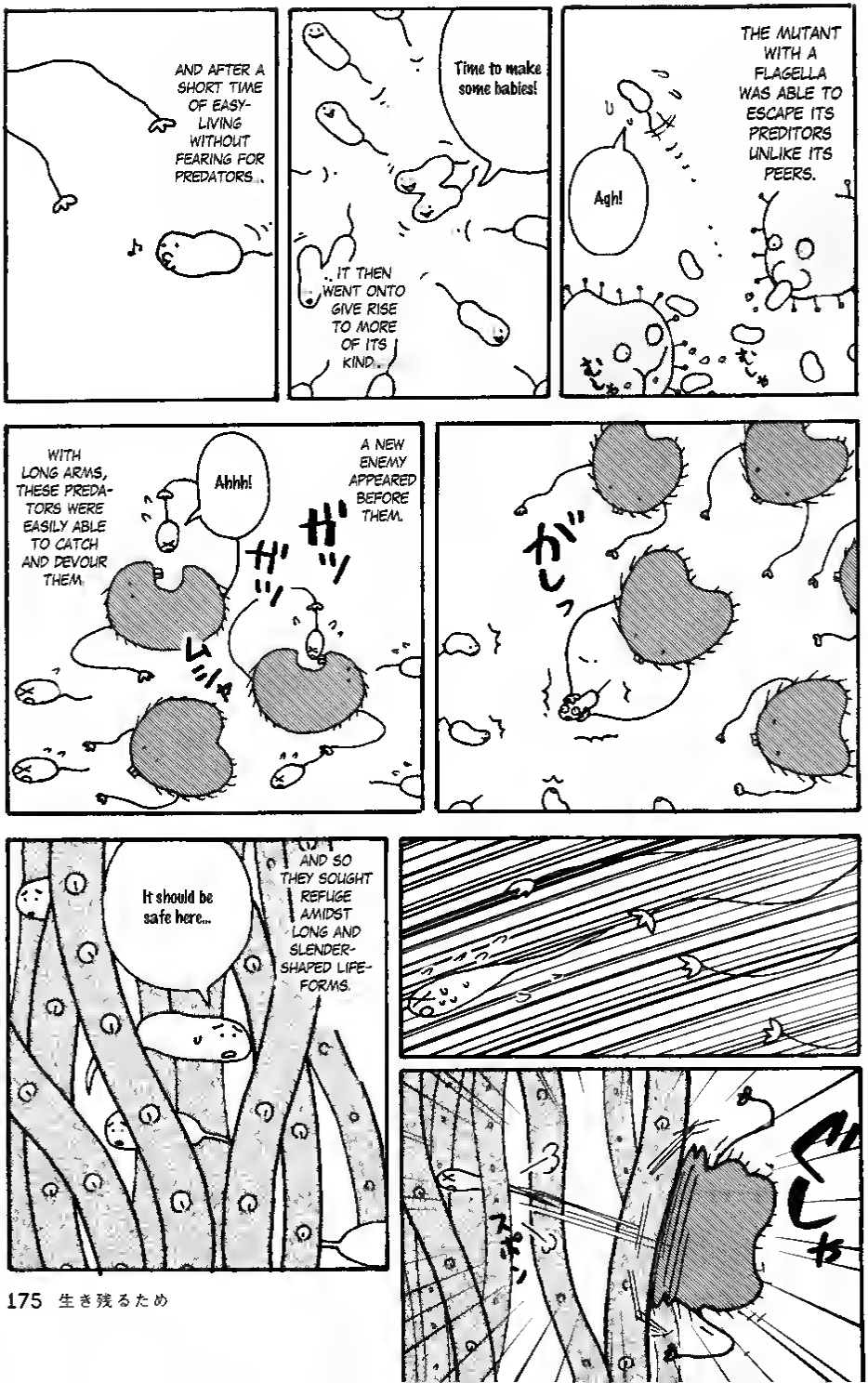
An orgy for the taste buds!
I was almost moved to tears...
SO GOOD...
NEVER REALIZED HOW MANY KINDS OF DISHES THERE ARE IN THIS WORLD.
LET ME GUESS, 7 SERVINGS OF INSTANT NOODLES AND MICROWAVABLE FOODS?
Listen, listen!
OH MAN, I JUST GOT TREATED TO THE MEAL OF MY LIFE!
A FULL COURSE MEAL THAT COSTED AS MUCH MY ENTIRE WEEK'S FOOD BUDGET!
WHAT WAS IT CALLED AGAIN?
IT HAD THIS RUNNY FINISH. IT WAS REALLY GOOD THOUGH.
WHAT... THE... HELL...?
Rubber...?
FIRST,
I HAD THIS THING WRAPPED AROUND SOME KIND OF RUBBERY STUFF PLACED ON A ROCK,
WITH LIKE A BLADE OF GRASS STICKING OUT ON TOP.
AND NEXT TO IT, WAS THIS PILE OF GRASS STACKED TOGETHER LIKE KINDLING IN A CAMPFIRE,
SPRINKLED WITH SOME SORT OF BLACK CRUMBS THAT LOOKED LIKE PILLBUGS!
Turned soft?
AND WHEN I BIT INTO THE PEEL WRAPPED AROUND IT,
I WAS LIKE, "OH CRAP, THIS IS RUBBER! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO EAT IT!"
BUT THEN IT JUST TURNED SOFT AND MELTED LIKE MAGIC!

A DISH KINDA LIKE VEGETABLE-FLAVOURED CANNED DOG FOOD...
WHAT ELSE WAS THERE? UMM... OH RIGHT, THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE MELAMINE FOAM,
NOT FOLLOWING YOU. AT ALL.
COULD YOU BE ANY MORE CONFUSING!?
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT TASTED FANTASTIC! YOU BITE INTO IT, AND THERE'S THIS WONDERFUL FRAGRANCE...
AND THE SAUCE FOR IT WAS PRETTY SOUR, WHICH MIGHT SOUND ODD, BUT IT WENT ALONG WITH THE FISH REALLY WELL SOMEHOW
MAN, I WISH I COULD JUST HAVE PLATE FULL OF THOSE ITTY-BITTY FISH I WONDER WHERE YOU CAN BUY THEM?
AND THEN I HAD... WHAT KIND OF FISH WAS IT?
I DUNNO, BUT IT WAS THIS SUPER SMALL RED FISH,
HOW IS THAT TOP-NOTCH!?
I MEAN, JUST TOP-NOTCH STUFF.
OH, AND THERE WAS ALSO THIS CORN SOUP POWDER-LIKE THING.
THAT WAS REALLY GOOD TOO.
AND THE MEAT WAS SO TENDER!
ISN'T THAT SO COOL!?
BUT IT WAS SERVED LIKE SOME LUNCHABLES-STYLE PIZZA WHERE YOU HAVE TO APPLY THE SAUCE AND TOPPINGS YOURSELF!
AFTER THE FISH CAME THE BEEF,
Step Two
Step One
YAY!
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HIM EATING A GOLDFISH...

It was just... heavenly...
What I'd give to have it again...
YOU'D NEVER FIND ANYTHING LIKE IT AT A CONVENIENCE STORE.
IT WAS STILL GOOD THOUGH.
WHAT A MEAL...
And the dessert was this ice-cream that I shit you not looked like dear droppings.
UGH, THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR TALKING ABOUT FOOD WITH A GUY WHO LIVES ON INSTANT TRASH...
YOU'VE GOTTEN ME ALL CURIOUS NOW ABOUT WHAT THE HELL YOU ACTUALLY ATE!
TELL ME THE RESTAURANT!
I'D GIVE IT... 3 AND A HALF STARS OUT OF 5...
NOT PARTICULARLY GOOD BUT NOT PARTICULARLY BAD EITHER...
Mousse
Melamine sponge
SO IT'S JUST SOME FRENCH CUISINE RESTAURANT...
Dog Food
Terrine
HERE'S YOUR APPETIZER, SIR.
Ohh so the goldfish was Thai-style fish fillet..
I GUESS THERE'S NO RESTAURANT IN THIS WORLD THAT SERVES THE KINDS OF DISHES HE WAS DESCRIBING..
IN THE END,
Top notch stuff.
Melted like wasps!
Melamine sponge
Bunch of grass
Sooo good...
Looked like pill bugs!
Canned dog food..

-END-


In Order To Survive
AS IS THE CASE FOR ALL ORGANISMS, THEIR AIM IN LIFE WAS TO SURVIVE.
Let's do our best!
What pleasant temperature!
DUE TO THE CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE, THEIR NATURAL PREDATORS PROLIFERATED QUICKLY.
It's so hot...
Hm?
Munch munch..
THEY ATE THOSE SMALLER THAN THEM, AND WERE EATEN IN TURN BY THOSE BIGGER THAN THEM.
Ah-
What's wrong with you?
I got something weird growing out of my rear..
BUT JUST WHEN THEY THOUGHT THEY'D BE EATEN TO EXTINCTION...


AND AFTER A SHORT TIME OF EASY-LIVING WITHOUT FEARING FOR PREDATORS...
Time to make some babies!
...IT THEN WENT ONTO GIVE RISE TO MORE OF ITS KIND.
Agh!
THE MUTANT WITH A FLAGELLA WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE ITS PREDITORS UNLIKE ITS PEERS.
WITH LONG ARMS, THESE PREDATORS WERE EASILY ABLE TO CATCH AND DEVOUR THEM.
Ahhh!
ガツ
ガツ
A NEW ENEMY APPEARED BEFORE THEM.
がっ
It should be safe here...
AND SO THEY SOUGHT REFUGE AMIDST LONG AND SLENDER-SHAPED LIFE-FORMS.
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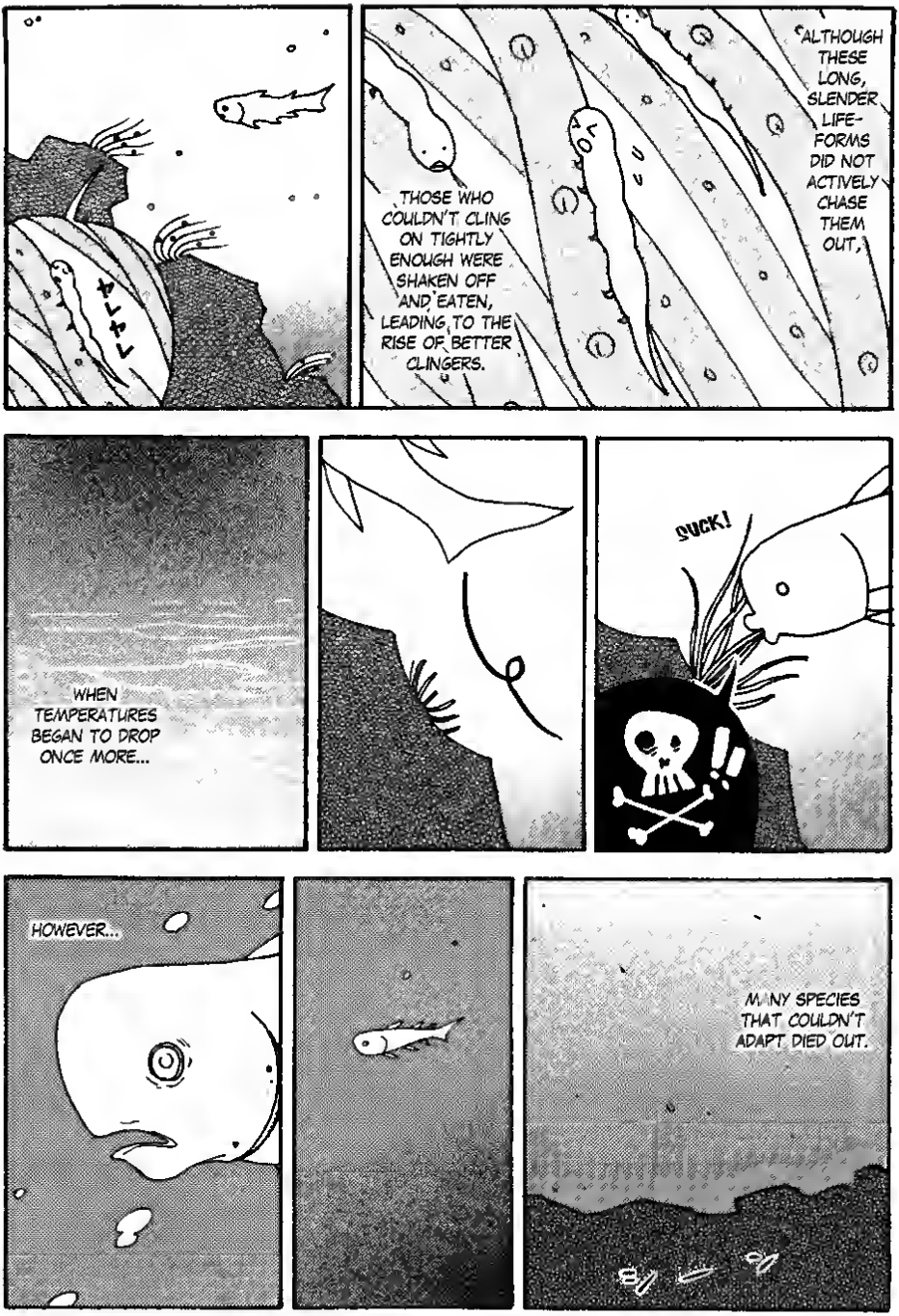
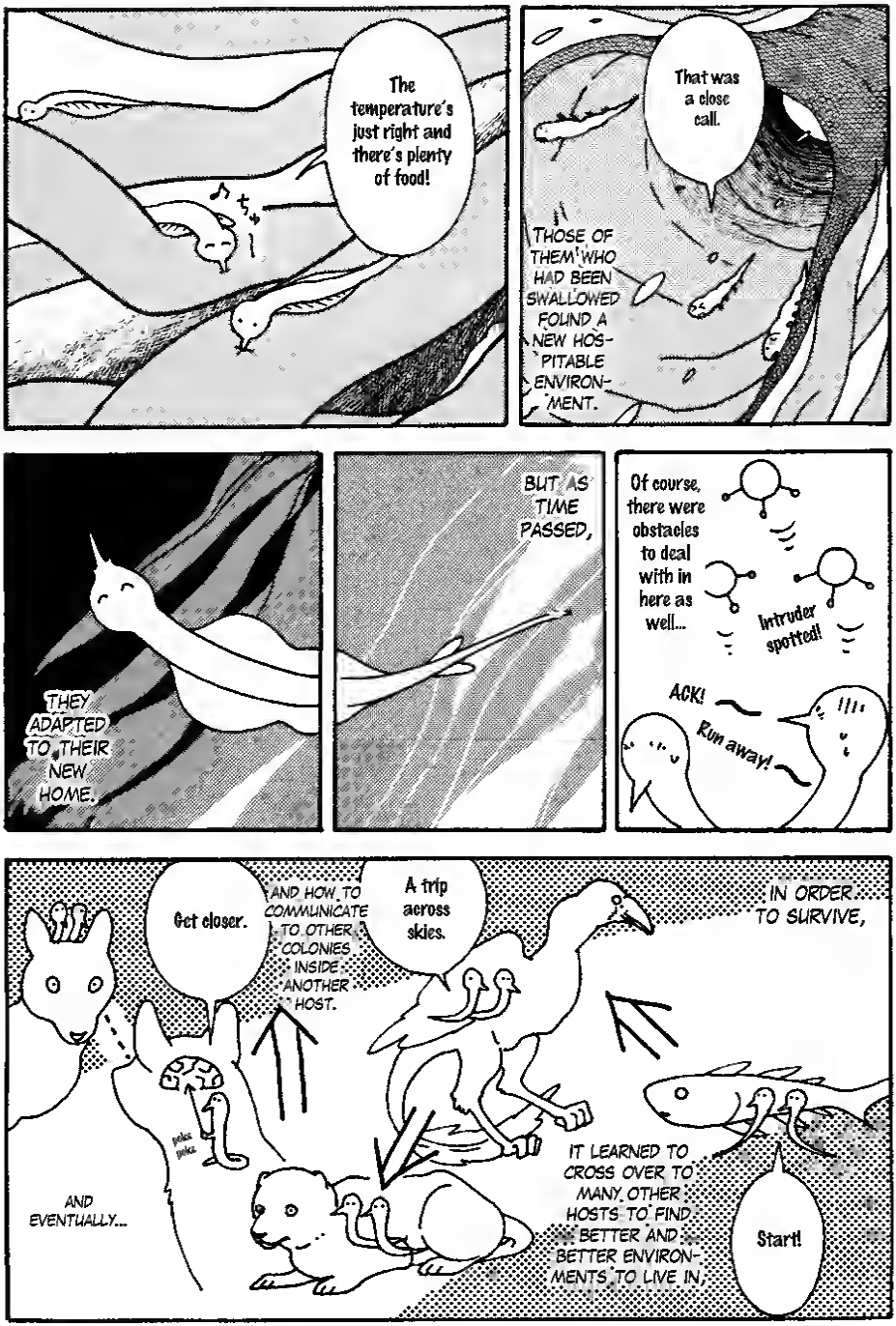

ALTHOUGH THESE LONG, SLENDER LIFE-FORMS DID NOT ACTIVELY CHASE THEM OUT,
THOSE WHO COULDN'T CLING ON TIGHTLY ENOUGH WERE SHAKEN OFF AND EATEN, LEADING TO THE RISE OF BETTER CLINGERS.
WHEN TEMPERATURES BEGAN TO DROP ONCE MORE...
SUCK!
HOWEVER...
MANY SPECIES THAT COULDN'T ADAPT DIED OUT.


The temperature's just right and there's plenty of food!
That was a close call.
THOSE OF THEM WHO HAD BEEN SWALLOWED FOUND A NEW HOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT.
THEY ADAPTED TO THEIR NEW HOME.
BUT AS TIME PASSED,
Of course, there were obstacles to deal with in here as well...
Intruder spotted!
ACK!
Run away!
Get closer.
AND HOW TO COMMUNICATE TO OTHER COLONIES INSIDE ANOTHER HOST.
A trip across skies.
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE,
pika pika
AND EVENTUALLY...
IT LEARNED TO CROSS OVER TO MANY OTHER HOSTS TO FIND BETTER AND BETTER ENVIRONMENTS TO LIVE IN.
Start!

GAHHH!
TAKE COVER, ANNE!
DAMN THESE MON-STERS!
KYAA!
NGRR...

I'LL LURE THEM TO ME AND TAKE THEM OUT WITH A BOMB...
NO, YOU CAN'T!
THIS ENTIRE BUILDING'S SURROUNDED BY THEM!
WHAT DO WE DO!?
SHIT, GUNS DON'T EVEN WORK ON THEM!
MICHAEL!
HEY! COME THIS WAY, YOU MONSTERS!
IT'S FINE. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE BEEN BITTEN JUST NOW...
I'M GONNA TURN INTO ONE OF THEM BEFORE LONG

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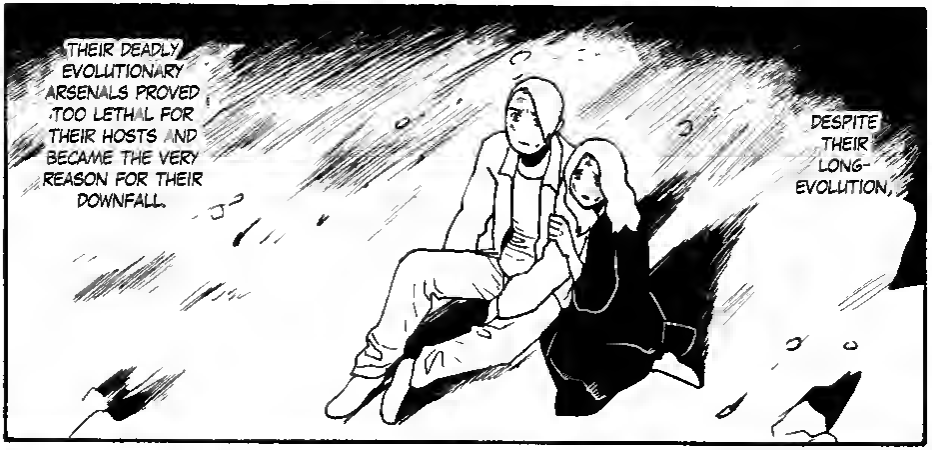
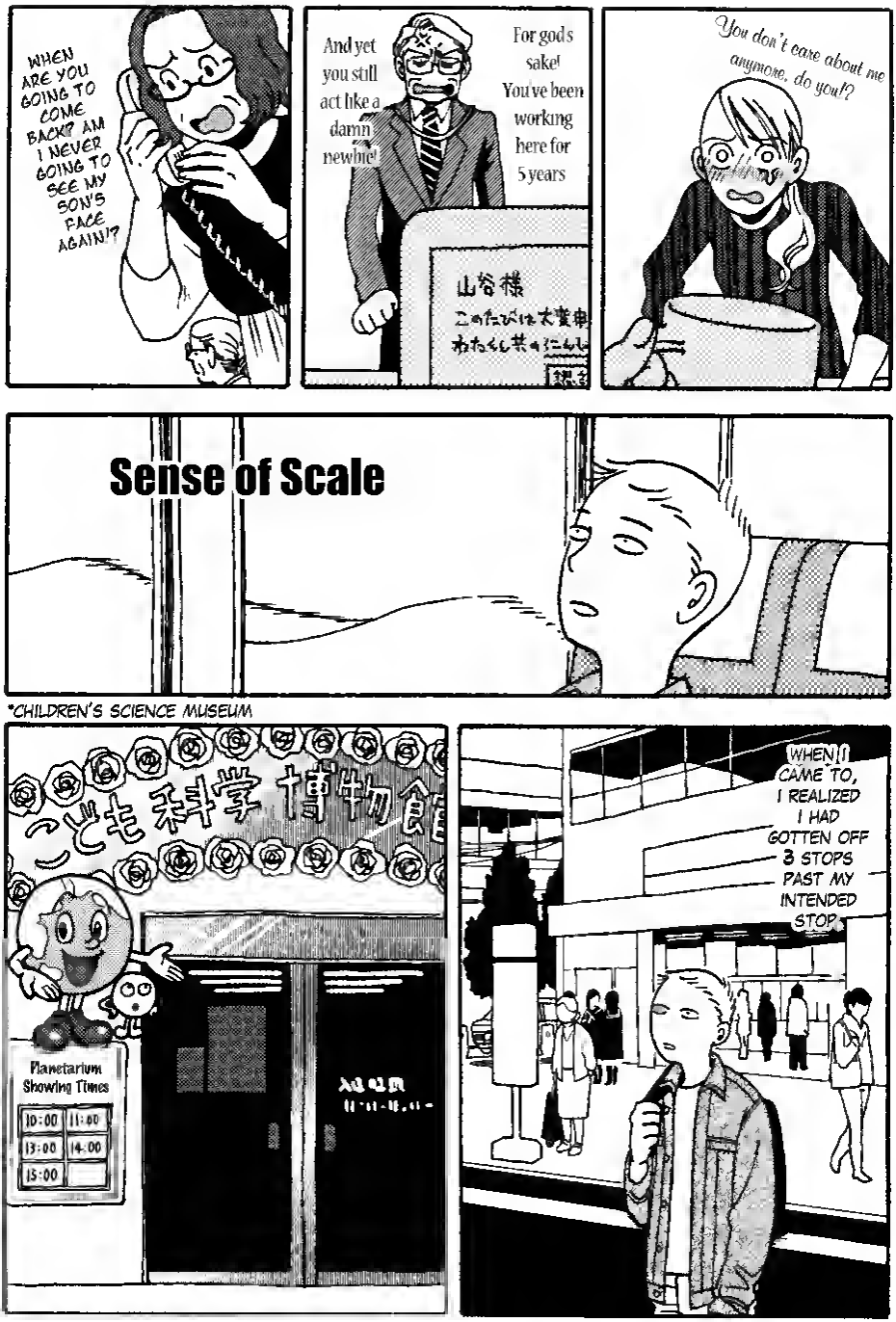

THEIR DEADLY EVOLUTIONARY ARSENALS PROVED TOO LETHAL FOR THEIR HOSTS AND BECAME THE VERY REASON FOR THEIR DOWNFALL.
DESPITE THEIR LONG-EVOLUTION,

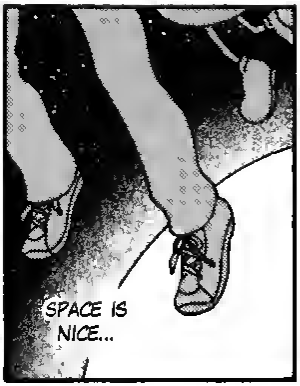
THUS, THEY TOO WENT EXTINCT.

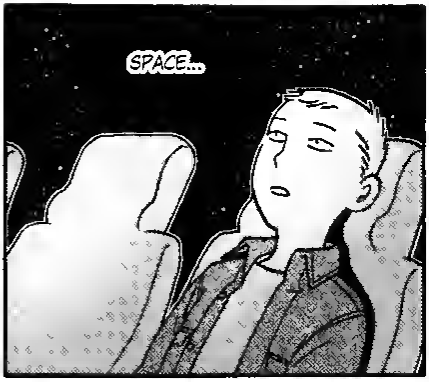
END

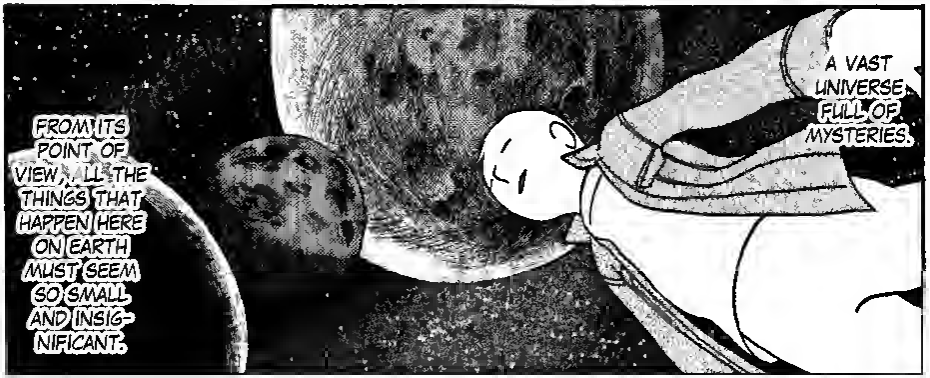

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO COME BACK? AM I NEVER GOING TO SEE MY SON'S FACE AGAIN!?
And yet you still act like a damn newbie!
For god's sake! You've been working here for 5 years
You don't care about me anymore, do you!?
Sense of Scale
こども科学博物館
Planetarium Showing Times
10:00
11:00
13:00
14:00
15:00
WHEN I CAME TO, I REALIZED I HAD GOTTEN OFF 3 STOPS PAST MY INTENDED STOP.

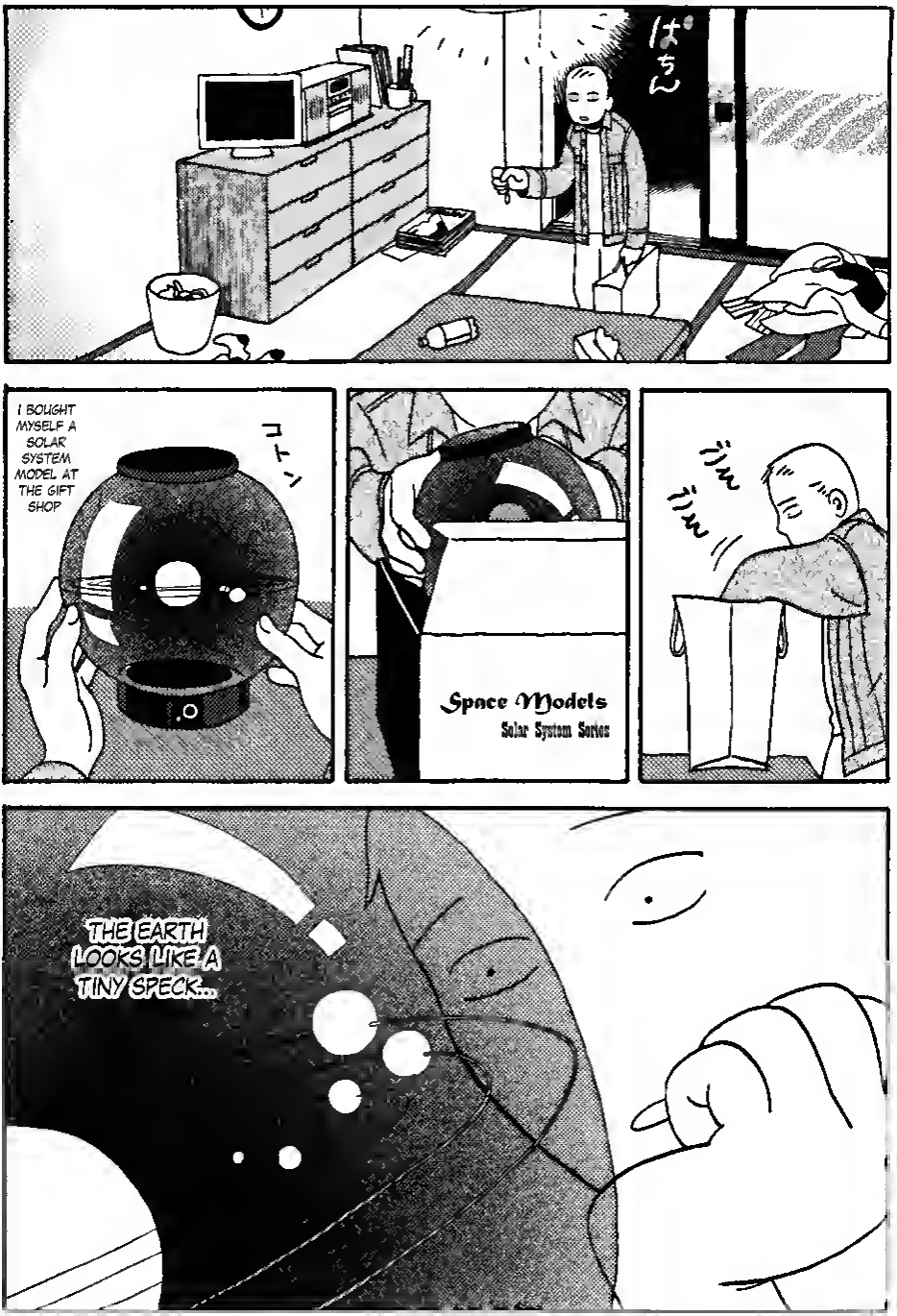
*CHILDREN'S SCIENCE MUSEUM

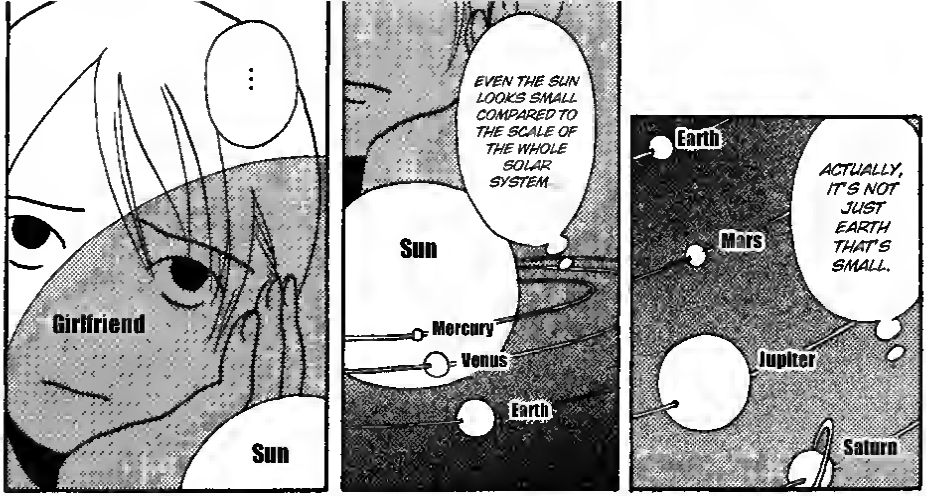
So join me on a journey through space.
Who knows just what wonders lie there?


SPACE IS NICE...

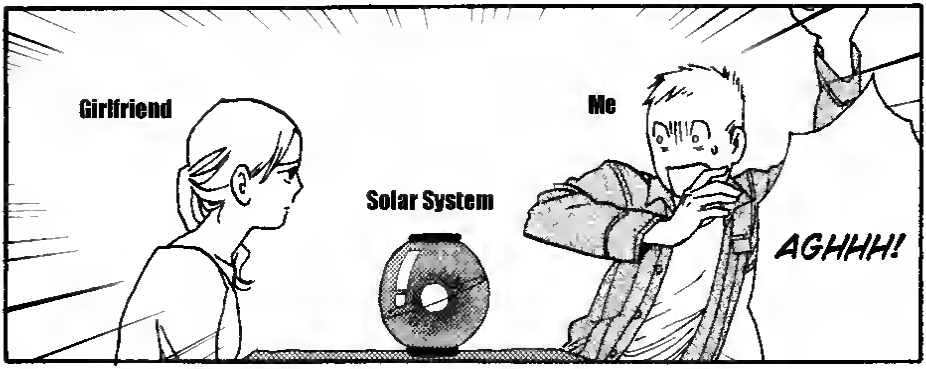

SPACE...

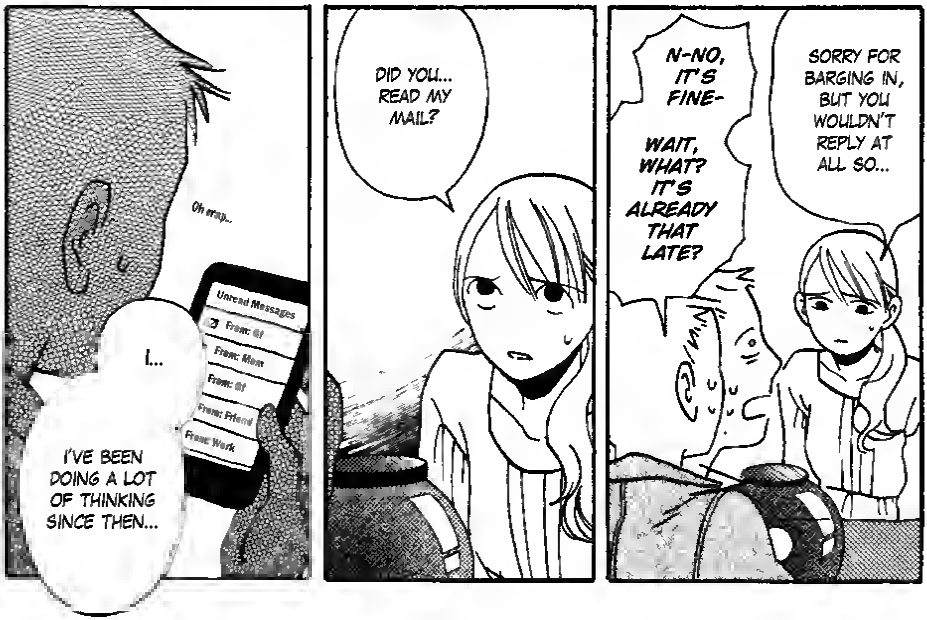

FROM ITS POINT OF VIEW, ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN HERE ON EARTH MUST SEEM SO SMALL AND INSIGNIFICANT.
A VAST UNIVERSE, FULL OF MYSTERIES.


はちん
I BOUGHT MYSELF A SOLAR SYSTEM MODEL AT THE GIFT SHOP
コトン
Space Models
Solar System Series
ジィィ
ジィィ
THE EARTH LOOKS LIKE A TINY SPECK...

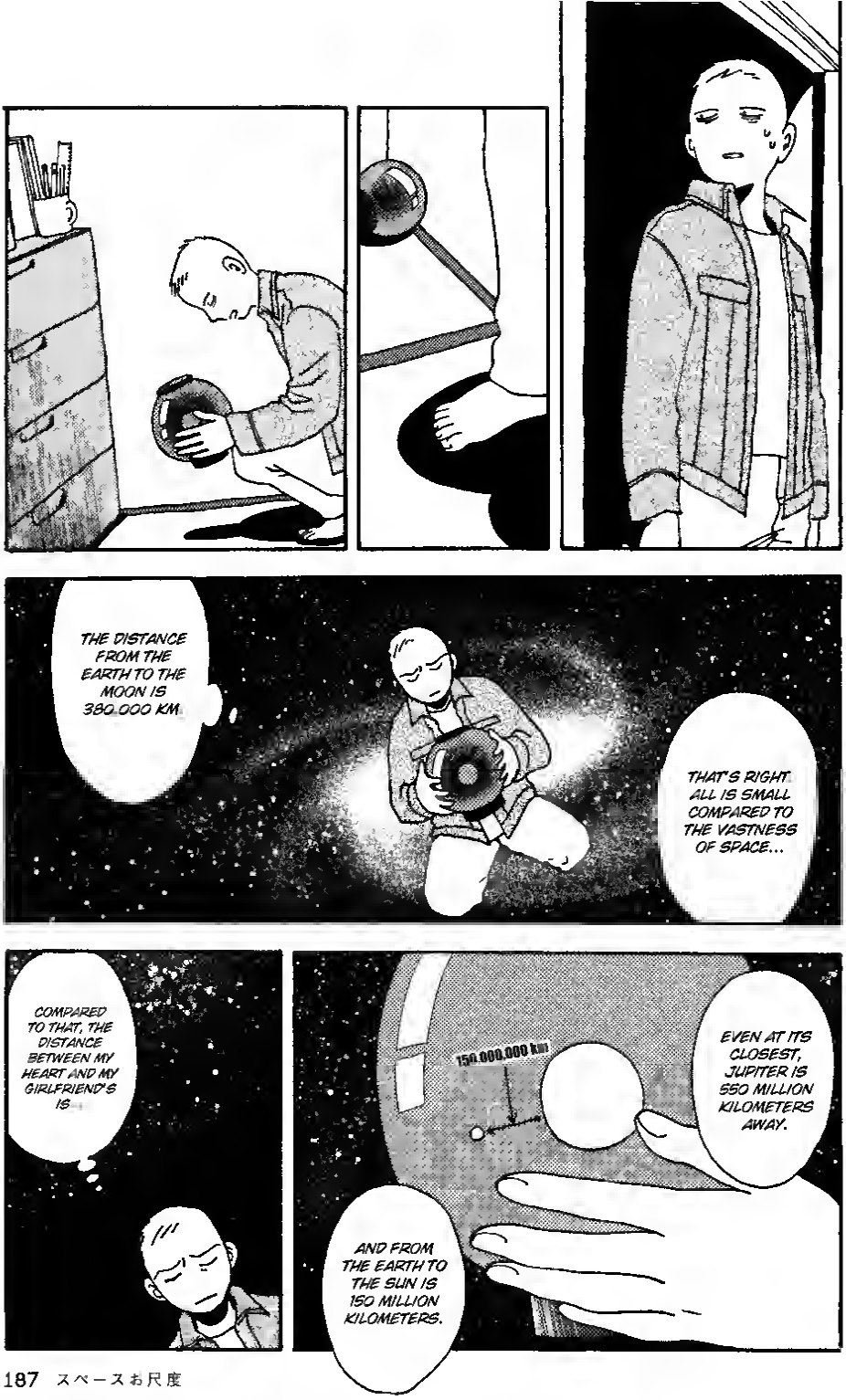


*Not quite drawn to scale

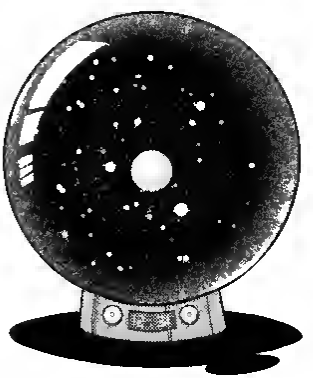




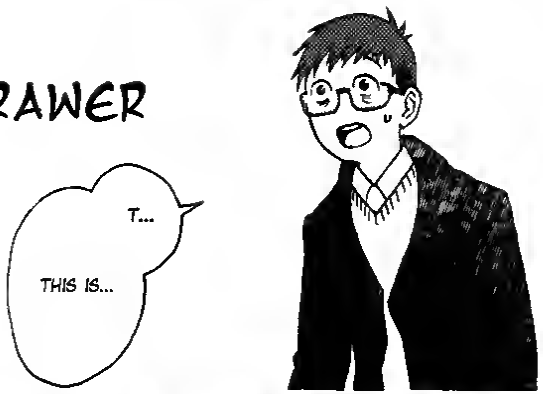
I'M ALWAYS DEPENDING ON YOU,
Solar System
WHICH ONLY MAKES YOU STRESSED OUT AND TIRED...
N-NO, WAIT! I WAS...
Solar System
NO, I'M THE ONE AT FAULT HERE.
WHAT!?
AND, WELL...
I JUST DON'T THINK WE'RE RIGHT FOR EACH OTHER..
Solar System
I CAME JUST TO SAY THAT
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING UNTIL NOW.
SO I THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST IF WE SPLIT UP.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE KIND OF SPOILED GIRL THAT BRINGS DOWN THOSE AROUND HER.


THE DISTANCE FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON IS 380,000 KM.
THAT'S RIGHT. ALL IS SMALL COMPARED TO THE VASTNESS OF SPACE...
COMPARED TO THAT, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN MY HEART AND MY GIRLFRIEND'S IS...
150,000,000 km
EVEN AT ITS CLOSEST, JUPITER IS 550 MILLION KILOMETERS AWAY.
AND FROM THE EARTH TO THE SUN IS 150 MILLION KILOMETERS.

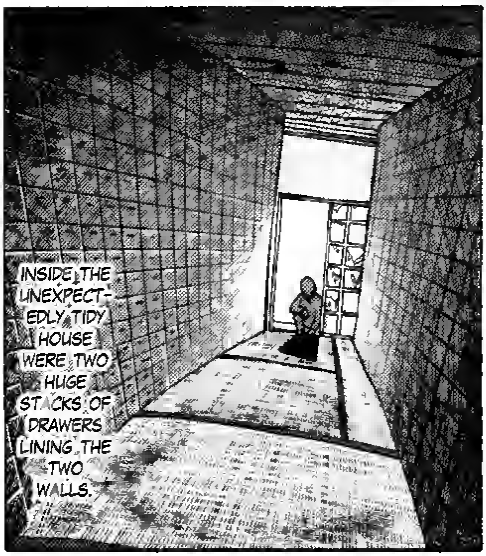
JUST MAYBE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO HER...
700m
BUT IF I RUN AFTER HER AT 20KM PER HOUR RIGHT NOW,
IT'S NO GOOD. I GET THE FEELING SHE'S EVEN FARTHER AWAY THAN THE SUN.
AND SHE'S DRIFTING AWAY AT LIGHT SPEED...
-END-

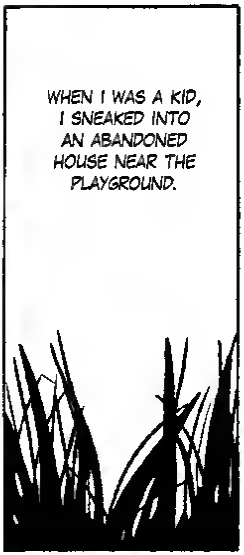


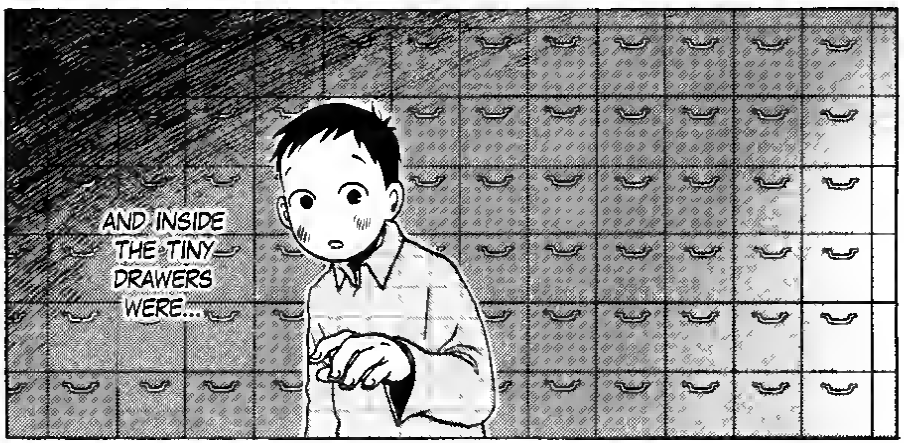
DRAWER

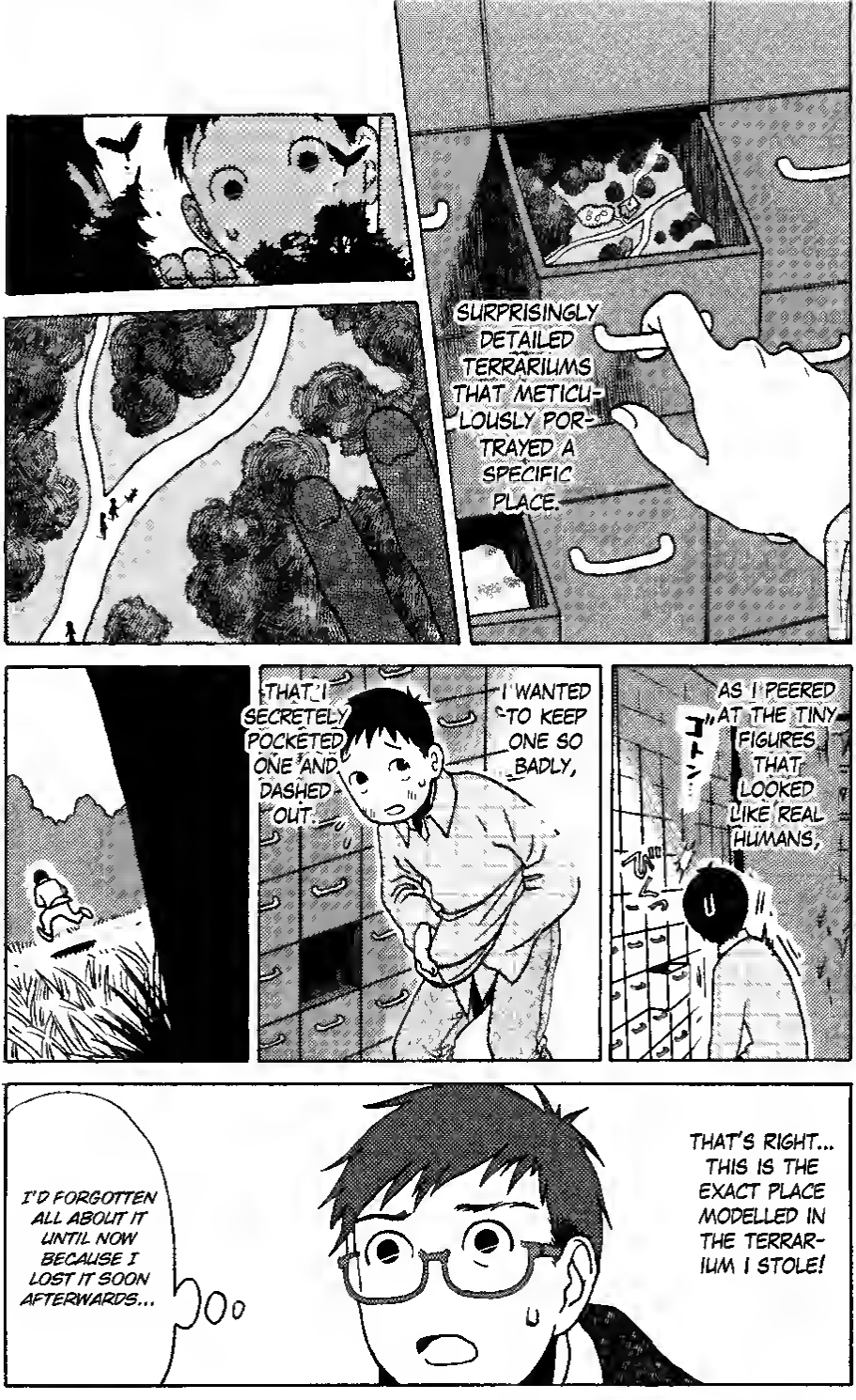


IT WAS A PLACE I'D NEVER BEEN BEFORE, BUT I WAS OVERCOME WITH A SHOCKINGLY STRONG SENSE OF DEJA VU.








SURPRISINGLY DETAILED TERRARIUMS THAT METICULOUSLY PORTRAYED A SPECIFIC PLACE.
AS I PEERED AT THE TINY FIGURES THAT LOOKED LIKE REAL HUMANS,
ゴトン…
I WANTED TO KEEP ONE SO BADLY,
THAT I SECRETELY POCKETED ONE AND DASHED OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT... THIS IS THE EXACT PLACE MODELLED IN THE TERRARIUM I STOLE!
I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT UNTIL NOW BECAUSE I LOST IT SOON AFTERWARDS...

BUT TO THINK...
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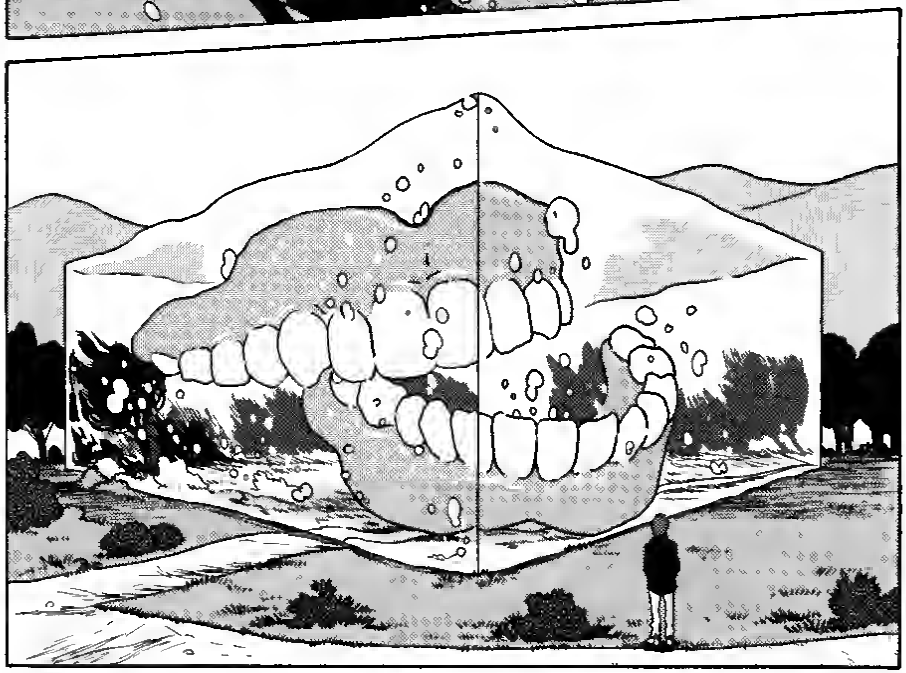
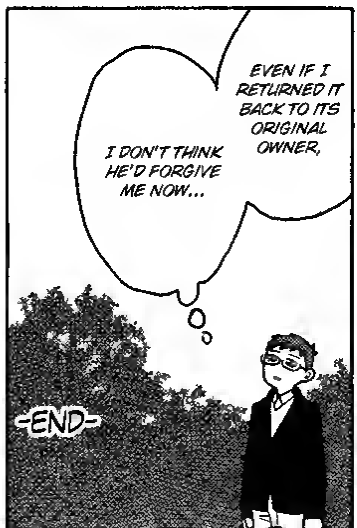
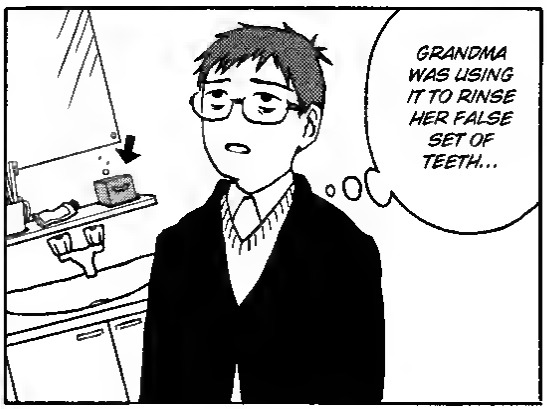
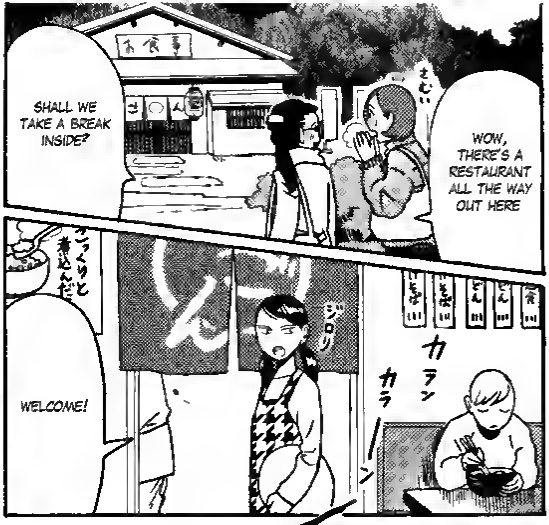
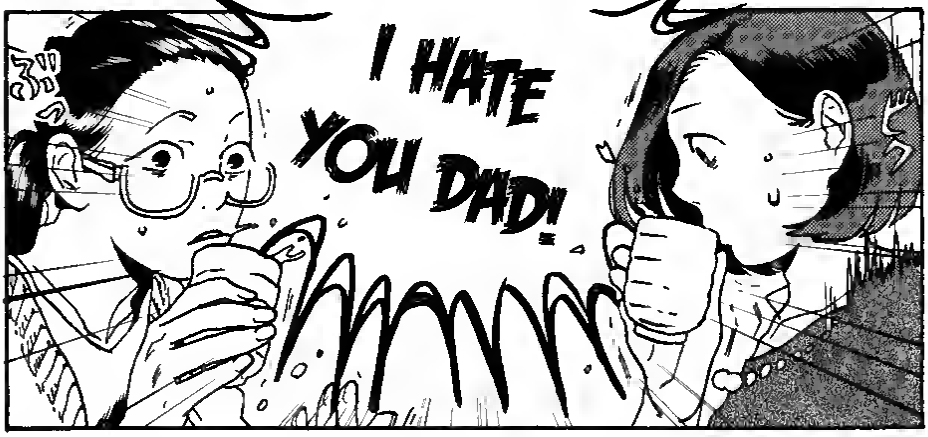


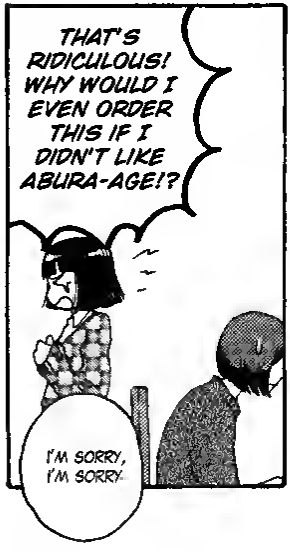

EVEN IF I RETURNED IT BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL OWNER,
I DON'T THINK HE'D FORGIVE ME NOW...
-END-

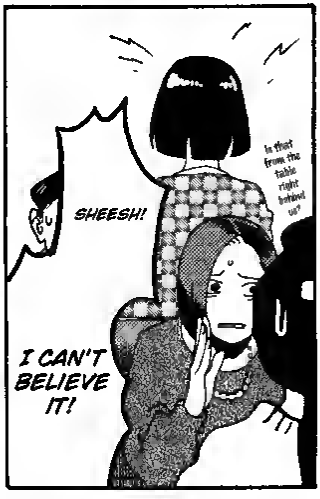

GRANDMA WAS USING IT TO RINSE HER FALSE SET OF TEETH...

All the Way out in the Mountains







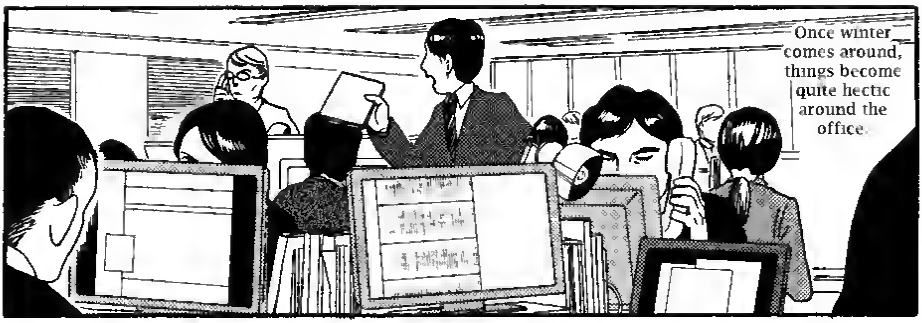


LOOK, THEY EVEN HAVE RED BEAN RICE.
ANMITSU, ZENZAI, OHAGI...
What do you want?
HERE, I'LL LET YOU ORDER ANY ITEM ON THE MENU.
OH, COME ON...
...
I'M NOT EVER FORGIVING YOU!
YES, NICE COLOURS.
AH-
THIS LOOKS NICE.
THE MIX-KATSU LUNCH SET.
YOU MANAGED TO GET RESERVATIONS THERE!?
WHAT KIND OF KID ORDERS THAT!?
HERE'S YOUR ORDER,
OK, I'LL HAVE THAT THEN.
YOU'RE THE BEST, SENPAI!
BUT HEY, IF YOU EVER NEED HELP, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
I wonder where he's going! Kawaii!
WOW.
OTHERWISE, IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RESERVATIONS FOR THAT HOTEL AROUND THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.
YEAH, MY BOSS HAS GOT SOME CONNECTIONS THERE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YEAH, NO KIDDING.

YEAH, LET'S EAT OUR FOOD AND GET OUT ASAP.
THIS PLACE IS EXTREMELY STRESSING IN A WAY...
YOU'RE BRAGGING ABOUT GOING TO SHIMANE PREFECTURE!?
DROPPING BY IZUMO IS LIKE STROLLING IN MY BACKYARD FOR ME
WHOAA...
TO BUY THIS!
WILL YOU...
THE REAL REASON I ASKED FOR YOUR GLOVE SIZE,
WASN'T SO I COULD BUY YOU A PAIR OF GLOVES... IT WAS...
Y-YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW BUT...
What is it now?
ガラ
TAMAMO!
MARRY ME!?

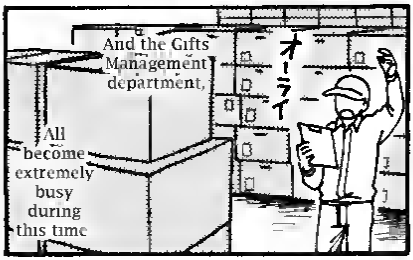
UGH, THAT WAS ONE HECK OF A PLACE TO EAT AT...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN ALL WRUNG OUT..
THAT'LL BE 7200 YEN.
Ahh what was it...
UMM..
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS TYPE OF RAIN AGAIN?
OH, RIGHT.
HM? IT'S RAINING.
THAT'S ODD. THERE'S HARDLY A CLOUD IN THE SKY.
"A KITSUNE'S MARRIAGE."

-END-


Once winter comes around, things become quite hectic around the office.

The main offices are located in Greenland, but this is the branch offices for Kansai-Japan.
We are the Santa Claus Industries.
A Story with a Dream

Call center department members that find and organize jobs for them,


And the Gifts Management department,
All become extremely busy during this time
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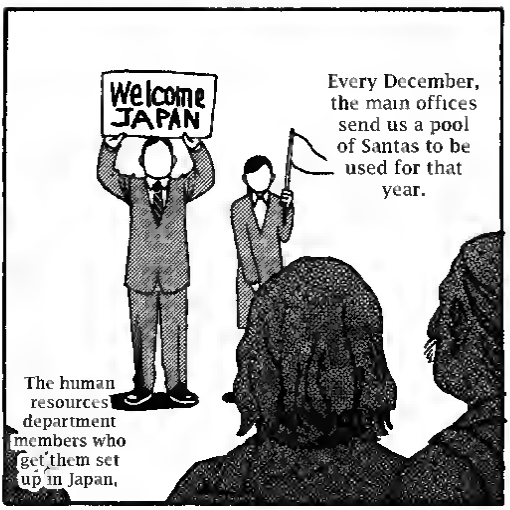
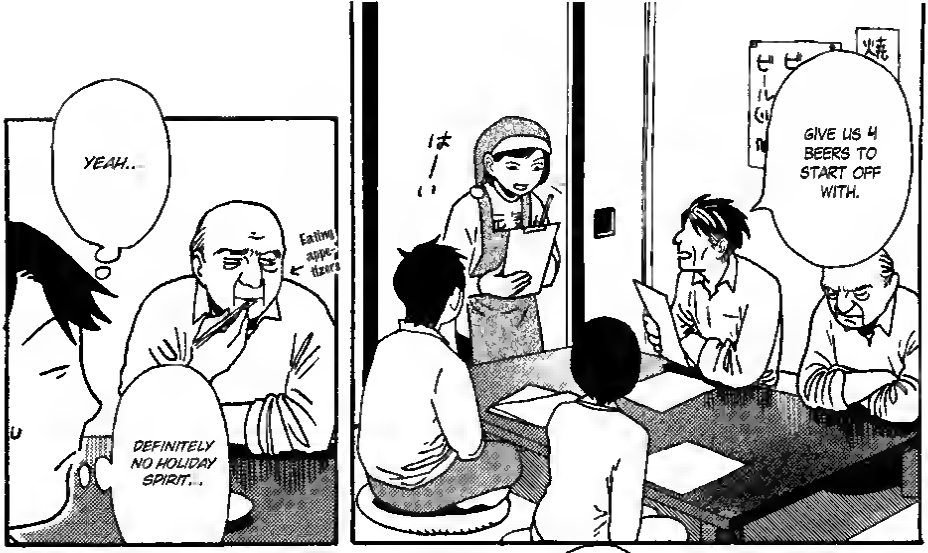
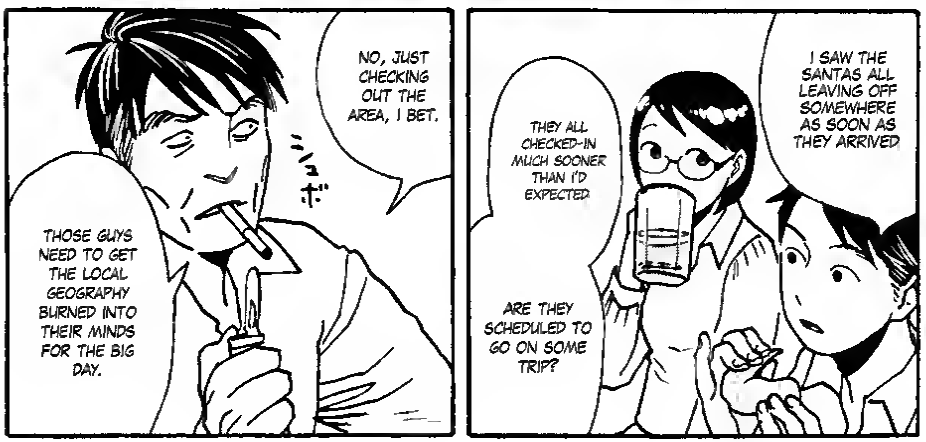

Welcome JAPAN
Every December, the main offices send us a pool of Santas to be used for that year.
The human resources department members who get them set up in Japan,

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE OUR DEPARTMENT GETS TOO CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THEM.
Administration Dept.
はは
A platoon of white foreigners.
HERE THEY COME AGAIN FOR THIS YEAR.
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE THAT GIVES YOU A BETTER SENSE OF ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY THAN SEEING THEM ARRIVE.
DANIEL...
DANIEL IS FROM CANADA.
EVER SINCE HE WAS A KID, HE WANTED TO BE SANTA CLAUS,
SO WHEN HE GREW UP, HE FLEW TO GREEN-LAND AND TOOK THE SANTA AUDITIONS OVER AND OVER AGAIN,
BUT HE NEVER PASSED MUSTER,
AND EVEN-TUALLY, HE PASSED THE MAXIMUM AGE REQUIRE-MENT AND HIS DREAM SHATTERED BEFORE HIS EYES

HE CAME TO OUR BRANCH IN KANSAI-JAPAN TO APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION
BUT UNABLE TO GIVE UP ON HIS DREAM OF WORKING IN THIS BUSINESS,
ALTHOUGH I HAD GROWN UP, STUDIED, GRADUATED, AND SOMEHOW GOTTEN EMPLOYED WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR DREAMS UNLIKE DANIEL;
EVEN A GUY LIKE ME COULD SORT OF TELL WHY DANIEL FAILED HIS SANTA AUDITIONS
WHAT DO YOU SAY!?
JAPAN WAS HARDLY MY FIRST PICK THOUGH, SINCE IT'S DIRTY AND SMALL.
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I HEARD THE ASIAN BRANCHES WERE IN NEED OF MORE WHITE FOREIGNERS.
HE JUST DOESN'T HAVE THAT SAME RADIANT AND INFECTIOUS SENSE OF CHEERFULNESS THAT THE OTHER SANTAS HAVE
HO! HO!
TO BE BLUNT, HE JUST WASN'T SUITED FOR IT.
HO!


YEAH..
Eating appetizers
DEFINITELY NO HOLIDAY SPIRIT..
GIVE US 4 BEERS TO START OFF WITH.

DRINK UP, DRINK UP!
ALTHOUGH IT WON'T BE AS BAD AS THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS, WE'RE GONNA BE PRETTY BUSY FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS,
SO TODAY'LL BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO KICK BACK AND LET LOOSE FOR A WHILE!
Another glass!
CONGRATS ON ANOTHER YEAR WELL DONE!
EVERY-ONE!
AHEM-
I KNOW THIS IS A LITTLE PREMATURE BUT...


NO, JUST CHECKING OUT THE AREA, I BET.
ショボ
THOSE GUYS NEED TO GET THE LOCAL GEOGRAPHY BURNED INTO THEIR MINDS FOR THE BIG DAY.
I SAW THE SANTAS ALL LEAVING OFF SOMEWHERE AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVED
THEY ALL CHECKED-IN MUCH SOONER THAN I'D EXPECTED
ARE THEY SCHEDULED TO GO ON SOME TRIP?

BUT NOW THEY ALL RELY ON THEM FANCY SMART PHONES WITH BUILT-IN GPS NAVIGATION..
SantaClaus
BACK IN THE DAY, ALL SANTAS HAD TO DO THEIR ROUTES WITHOUT EVEN A MAP!
WELL, CITY ROADS ARE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THESE DAYS...
PROFES-SIONAL, MY ASS!
Whoa!
SO PROFES-SIONAL!
EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONCE A YEAR...
THEIR JOBS REQUIRE THEM TO DEAL WITH KIDS! DRINKING AND SMOKING UNDERMINES THE VERY FUNDAMENTAL ETHOS IN THEIR LINE OF WORK!
THEY'RE GONNA LEAVE A FOUL STENCH WHEN THEY ENTER THE ROOMS OF LITTLE KIDS! THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN THAT!
AND HAVE YOU SEEN THEM IN THEIR TIME OFF!? SMOKING A PACK OF CIGS WITHOUT A CARE!
IT SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS THEY GO WITHOUT ANY A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE BIG DAY
ひそ ひそ
HE'S GETTING PRETTY WORKED UP, ISN'T HE...
WELL, YOU KNOW DANIEL... HE'S GOT A LOT OF PERSONAL HISTORY AND MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT SANTAS...
ぷりぷり
JAPAN = 3RD-RATE...
IT'S LAX ATTITUDES LIKE THAT WHICH EXPLAIN WHY THE ASIAN BRANCHES ARE THIRD-RATE!
グビグビ
ひどいよー

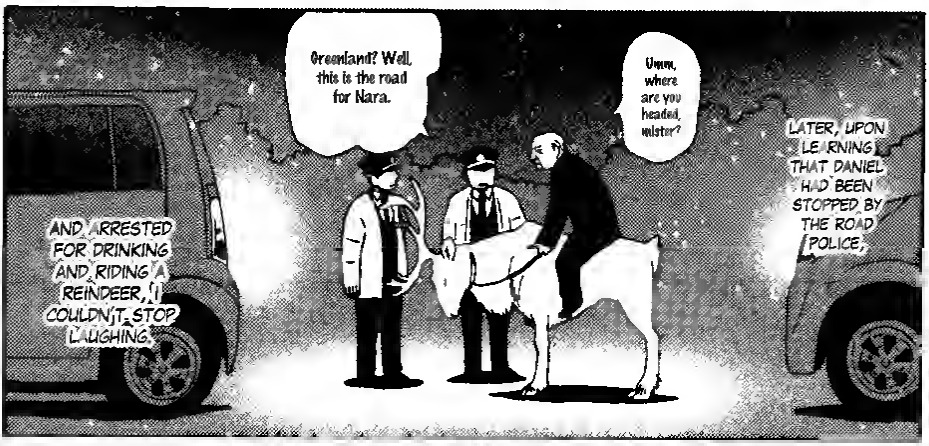
I'll go on ahead first!
THEY URGENTLY NEED SOME EXTRA HANDS.
I NEED TO GO TO THE OFFICE RIGHT NOW.
OH, I'LL COME TOO THEN
THESE NEW SANTAS, I TELL YA...
grumble grumble
UNDER-STOOD, I'LL BE THERE SHORTLY.
HM?
HM?
THOSE THINGS?
THE ROADS ARE PRETTY BACKED UP.
YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THOSE THINGS ARE GETTING DELIVERED TODAY.
He's completely out of it
OH BUT WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT DANIEL?
JUST TAKE HIM WITH US

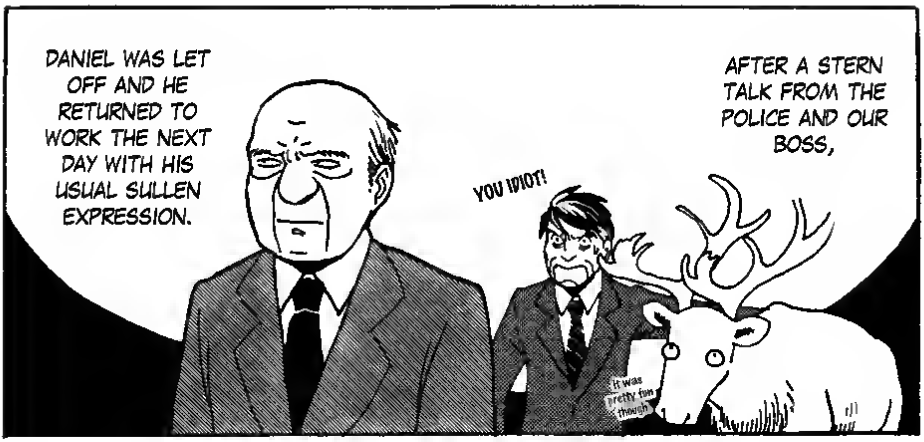
Yumetani Hokkaido Pastures
OH, THEY'RE DOMESTIC...
THESE GUYS ALL CAME FROM GREENLAND TOO, HUH..
OHH RIGHT, THE REINDEERS.
JUST WAIT OUT HERE FOR A WHILE.
WHAT!?
THEY SHOULD BE RESTING AT THEIR HOTELS RIGHT NOW..
MN...
DANIEL?
WHERE'RE THE SANTAS...
WELL... IT WAS A LONG FLIGHT, THEY MUST HAVE JET-LAG...
YOU DON'T THINK IT WAS A LONG TRIP FOR THE REINDEERS TOO!?
かーっ
CAN'T EVEN BE ASSED TO WELCOME THEIR PARTNERS, EH!?
WHAT THE HELL DO THEY THINK BEING A SANTA'S ABOUT!?
SO THEY DON'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF THE REIN-DEERS THEY'RE GONNA DEPEND ON!?

IT'S JUST...
SO PITIFUL, THESE POOR THINGS..
ボロ ボロ ボロ
PLEASE BE A LITTLE MORE REASONABLE..
!
AND A COMPANY LIKE OURS THAT EVEN EMPLOYS THESE LOW-GRADE SANTAS IS EVEN MORE PATHETIC...
NO LOOK, THEY'RE JUST...
?
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THE PAIN OF WORKING TO THE BONE FOR SOME FAT OAF WHO THINKS OF YOU AS MORE OF A RIDE THAN A COMPANION!?
IT'S A FAR GRANDER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL ROLE THAN THAT!
A REAL SANTA CLAUS IS ONE WHO CAN MAKE COMPLETE STRANGERS SMILE AND FILL THEIR HEARTS WITH DREAMS!
A REAL SANTA CLAUS!
IS NOT JUST ABOUT BEING A WHITE OLD MAN WITH A JOLLY SMILE!

I MUST RETURN THESE POOR REINDEERS BACK TO THEIR HOME!
DANIEL...
GIDDY-UP!
LET'S GO, REINDEER!
OUR DES-TINATION IS GREEN-LAND!
What I'm from Hokkaido though...
Wait, wha?

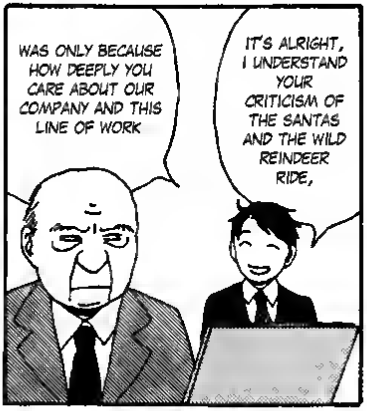
He's riding off on a stolen reindeer...
おーい


Greenland? Well, this is the road for Nara.
Umm, where are you headed, mister?
LATER, UPON LEARNING THAT DANIEL HAD BEEN STOPPED BY THE ROAD POLICE,
AND ARRESTED FOR DRINKING AND RIDING A REINDEER, I COULDN'T STOP LAUGHING.


DANIEL WAS LET OFF AND HE RETURNED TO WORK THE NEXT DAY WITH HIS USUAL SULLEN EXPRESSION.
AFTER A STERN TALK FROM THE POLICE AND OUR BOSS,
YOU IDIOT!
It was pretty fun or though

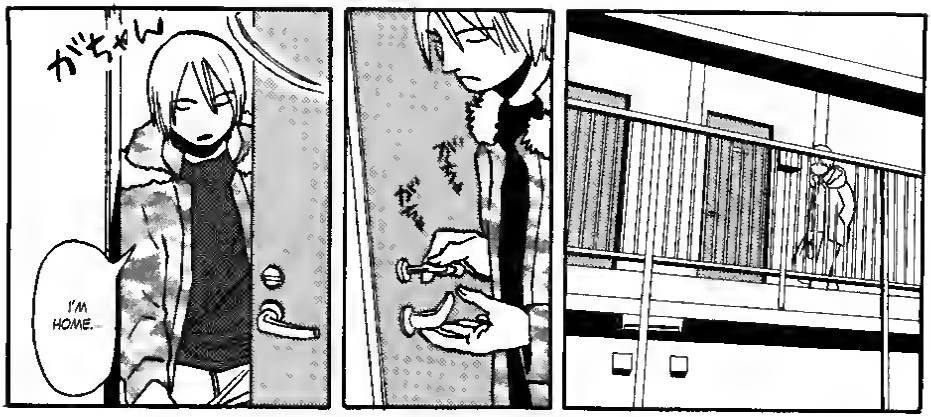
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A FIRST-RATE SANTA,
WHO'D NEVER HAVE TO RESORT TO COMING ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN...
THE SANTAS HAVE LEFT FOR WORK!
HEY, LOOK!

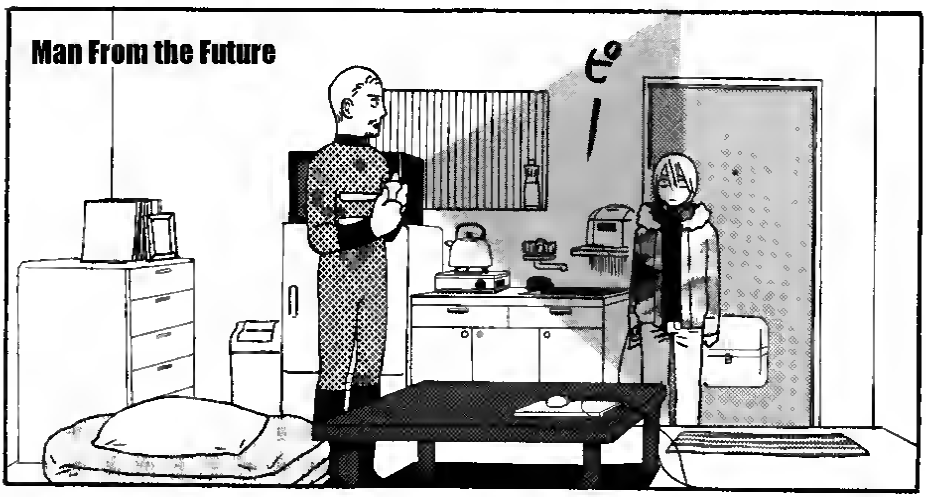
I'M SURE HAD DANIEL BECOME A SANTA,
Not really..

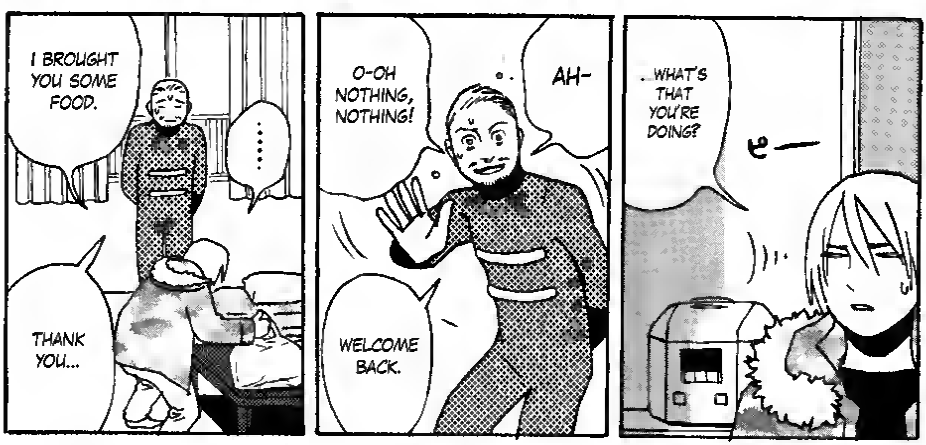

WAS ONLY BECAUSE HOW DEEPLY YOU CARE ABOUT OUR COMPANY AND THIS LINE OF WORK
IT'S ALRIGHT, I UNDERSTAND YOUR CRITICISM OF THE SANTAS AND THE WILD REINDEER RIDE,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

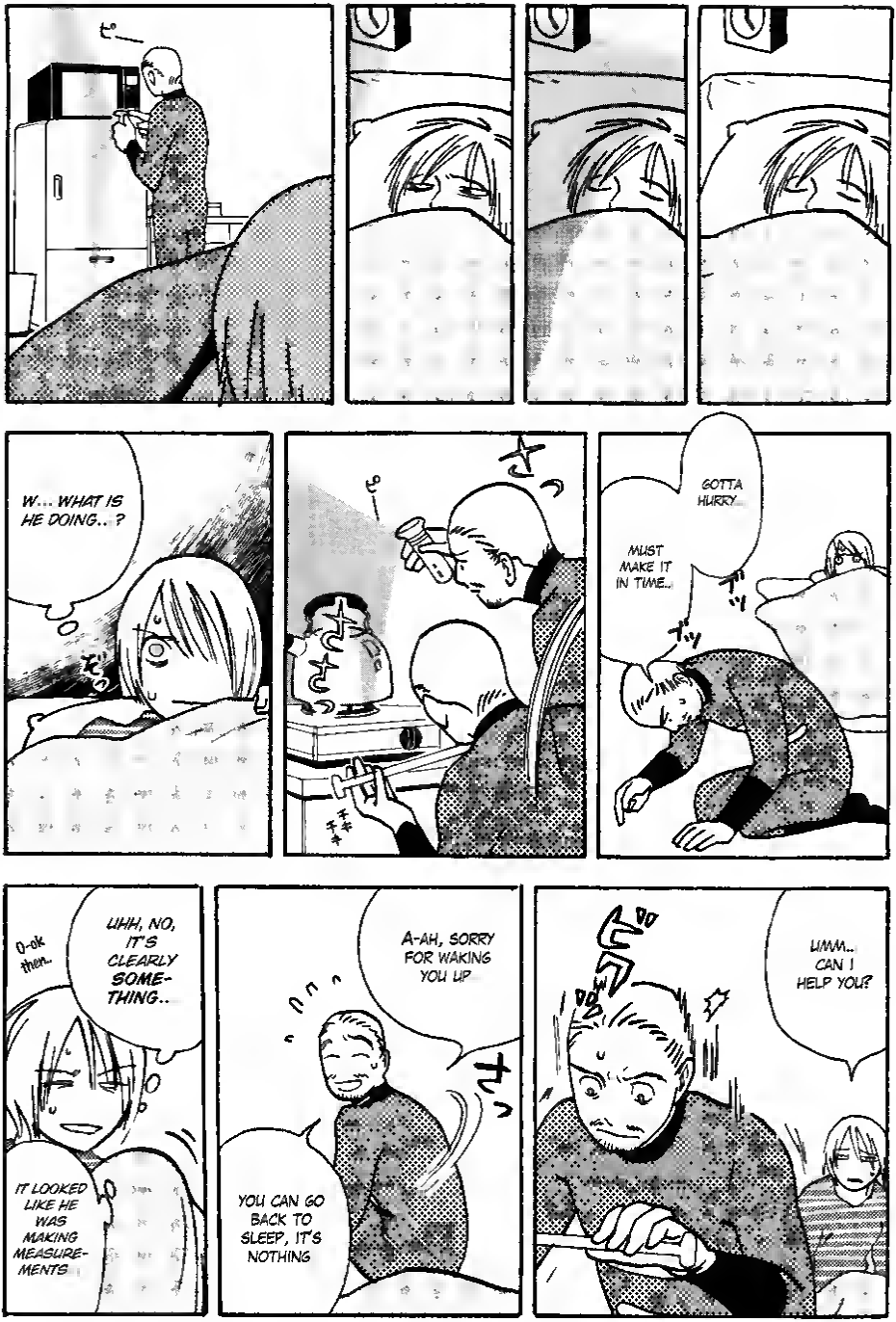
-END-


がちゃん
I'M HOME.


Man From the Future
え！


I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD.
……
THANK YOU...
O-OH NOTHING, NOTHING!
AH-
WELCOME BACK.
…WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE DOING?
へー

Of course...
I DON'T NEED IT.
The mint-dates are a lot earlier though.
YOU COULD PROBABLY USE IT IN JUST FIVE CENTURIES FROM NOW...
HERE'S SOME MONEY TO HELP COVER THE FOOD COSTS...
UMM...
CLAIMED HE WAS FROM THE FUTURE.
THIS STRANGER, WHO SUDDENLY TRANS-PORTED INTO MY ROOM LAST NIGHT,
Please send help soon. Over
BUT I STILL HAD MY SUSPI-CIONS ABOUT HIM
I WASN'T REALLY SKEPTICAL AT ALL ABOUT HIS CLAIM THAT HE CAME FROM THE FUTURE,
SINCE HE USES A HI-TECH TRANSLA-TOR DEVICE AND POPPED OUT OF THIN AIR AND ALL,
IT REALLY WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HELP ARRIVES SO COULD I STAY HERE WITH YOU UNTIL THEN?
THERE WAS A MISHAP WITH MY TIME-MACHINE AND I ARRIVED AT THE WRONG PLACE.


W... WHAT IS HE DOING...?
GOTTA HURRY...
MUST MAKE IT IN TIME...
UMM.. CAN I HELP YOU?
A-AH, SORRY FOR WAKING YOU UP
YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP, IT'S NOTHING
UHH, NO, IT'S CLEARLY SOME-THING..
O-ok then..
IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS MAKING MEASURE-MENTS

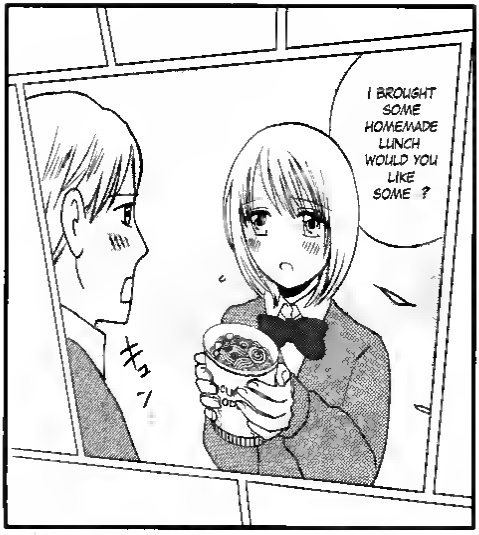
AND WHY IS HE TRYING TO HIDE IT FROM ME...?
AND THAT TOOL...
WHAT'S THE POINT OF ME SURING COMMONPLACE THINGS IN MY ROOM OF ALL PLACES...?
HE MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE...
WHY DID HE EVEN TRY TO TRAVEL BACK TO THE PAST IN THE FIRST PLACE?
AH, ARE YOU COLLEGE STUDENT?
IS MY ROOM WHERE A SUPER IMPORTANT INCIDENT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE?
WOW! THIS ERA SURE HAD A LOT OF STUDENTS! THE PLACE I GRADUATED FROM BARELY HAD A THOUSAND.
Amazing!
NOT EVEN A THOUSAND!?
HOW MANY DEPARTMENTS DO WE HAVE AGAIN? LIT. EDUCATION LAW ECON. PHYSICS CHEMISTRY BIO
WHY'S HE ASKING ABOUT MY SCHOOL NOW...?
UMM... 'BOUT 20,000?
TWENTY THOUSAND!?
HUH?
...OH, YEAH.
HOW MANY STUDENTS GO TO YOUR SCHOOL?

I HEARD THIS ERA SAW CONQUESTS BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD.
OH, ALSO...
NUCLEAR WAR?
NATURAL DISASTERS?
MAYAN APOCALYPSE
LETHAL PANDEMIC
ALIENS!
JUST HOW MUCH DID THE POPULATION SHRINK BY? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS SOCIETAL TREND?
HAVING EXPERIENCED THAT,
CONQUESTS!?
WAR? HUH?
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU EVEN MEAN BY THAT!? IS SOME HUGE WAR GONNA BREAK OUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE!?
WHEN WILL IT BE! TELL ME NOW!
HUH?
I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED THAT!

AND IT'S GONNA CAUSE A HUGE DROP IN OUR POPULATION!
JAPAN'S GONNA GET INVADED AND CONQUERED BY SOME COUNTRY SOON, RIGHT!?
AHH! I GET IT NOW! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE COME BACK IN TIME, HAVEN'T YOU!?
H-HOLD ON A MOMENT!
WHY ELSE WOULD YOU HAVE COME TO THIS UNIMPORTANT TOWN!? YOU'RE MAKING MEASUREMENTS OF TOWNS BEFORE THEY WERE ALL DESTROYED IN THE WAR!
OH, LIKE I'D FALL FOR THAT!
THAT'S STRANGE, MY TRANSLATOR DEVICE BUGGED OUT
N-NO, THAT WAS JUST... ME COLLECTING REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR MANGA...
I MEANT TO SAY "UNIFORMS," NOT "CONQUESTS."
STOP LYING!
I DIDN'T WANT TO RESORT TO THIS IF POSSIBLE BUT...!
AGHH!
DAMN IT, HE'S BECOMING HYSTERICAL.

PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET JUST BETWEEN US.
OH WOW, THAT IS A PRETTY COOL MANGA. CAN YOU SEND ME SOME ISSUES OF IT?

-END-



Typical lunch scene among students
(may require more historical documentation)

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ジュンク堂書店さんで
お買い上げありがとう
ございます
九井諒子.2013.イースト・プレス

ひきにしテラリウム

2013年3月27日 初版発行

著者　九井諒子 ©Ryoko Kui

本文DTP　臼田彩穂

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発行人　堅田浩二

発行所　株式会社イースト・プレス
〒101-0051東京都千代田区
神田神保町2-4-7久月神田ビル8F
TEL 03-5213-4700
FAX 03-5213-4701
http://www.eastpress.co.jp/

印刷所　中央精版印刷株式会社

装丁　名和田耕平デザイン事務所

2013 Printed in Japan
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ISBN978-4-7816-0948-5 C0979

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「TARABAGANI」――2011年5月人魚禁漁区（個人誌）
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